PSS, SREB begin work, outreach on 'Portrait of a Graduate' initiative. PAGE 2
NMC-CREES expands Agriculture Production program with 2 agriculture economists. PAGE 3

Hafa Adai!

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Auditor finds CHCC instances of noncompliance

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
delatorreferdie@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

» CHCC shares corrective actions to address auditor's findings

An independent auditor has found during their tests some instances of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s noncompliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, based on its audit of CHCC's financial statements for the year ended Sept. 30, 2019.

Auditor Ernst & Young informed CHCC chief executive director Esther L. Muna last Nov. 7 on the results of their tests that showed instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be

See AUDITOR on Page 4

CHRYSTAL MARINO

Marianas Visitors Authority board members and officials discuss upcoming plans and events for the MVA at their office in Garapan last Friday.

MVA: Twice weekly flights from Korea expected to start next month

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

Following its board hearing last Friday, the Marianas Visitors Authority was excited to announce the extra flights coming in from Korea this upcoming month of December through February.

In a brief interview with MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion at their office in Garapan last Friday, he shared that Jeju Air is going to launch twice-weekly flights from Busan to Saipan next month, Dec. 20, through Feb. 25, 2025.

"That's huge news and great news for the tourism industry, additional airlift. Jeju Air will also resume the second daily flight on Dec. 8. So that will make their operations twice-daily from Incheon and then twice-weekly from Busan."

He said the Busan flights have a 189-seat capacity with an overall estimate of around 3,000 passengers during the duration of the service. "We're pumping in some marketing dollars for this flight so that ultimately the goal is to make these flights happen all year

See MVA on Page 4

1 of 2 found guilty for illegal transport of others to Guam wants verdict overturned

KIMBERLY B. ESMORES

The U.S. District Court for the NMI located along Middle Road in Gualo Rai.

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

One of the two Chinese nationals who were found guilty by a jury for allegedly helping illegally transport others to Guam by boat has filed a motion for acquittal with the U.S. District Court for the NMI last Thursday.

Hongjiang Yang, one of two others found guilty earlier this month for allegedly aiding in the illegal transport of others to Guam, has filed a

See GUILTY on Page 4

Standing committee passes bill to regulate 'lime'

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Senate Standing Committee on Health, Education, and Welfare has unanimously passed Senate Bill 23-54, which essentially regulates *afok* or *bweesch*—commonly known as lime—under the Pure Food and Drug Control Act.

Last Thursday, the Senate panel held a committee meeting to address S.B. 23-54.

Introduced by committee vice chair Sen. Corina Magofna (Ind-Saipan), the bill passed the committee by unanimous vote and will be presented before the full Senate body for approval.

According to Magofna, the bill is

See BILL on Page 4

Magofna

INSIDE

LOCAL
Endeavoring to unite a community of researchers, students, and environmental professionals dedicated to exploring and sharing valuable insights on the region, the Asia Pacific Academy of Science, Education, and Environmental Management is excited to invite community members to its upcoming event, "Call for Action in Presentations" this upcoming week.
PAGE 6

BUSINESS
Celebrate the season of gratitude at The Terrace at Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan! This Thanksgiving, Thursday, Nov. 28, from 11am to 2pm, join us for a Thanksgiving Brunch packed with seasonal favorites and island-inspired flair.
PAGE 10

LIFE & STYLE
Jake Paul believes he can fight for a championship belt within two years. Mike Tyson didn't rule out another return to the ring after the 58-year-old former heavyweight champion's first sanctioned pro bout since 2005.
PAGE 11

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SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

Local

PSS, SREB begin work, outreach on 'Portrait of a Graduate' initiative

The Public School System has begun its community and stakeholders outreach on a major initiative, the "Portrait of a Learner and Graduate," designed to reinforce the school district's current curriculum and programs for high school students, preparing them for their after-high school choices.

During his first strategic planning institute with stakeholders last June, Education Commissioner Dr. Lawrence F. Camacho launched the PSS Five-Year Strategic Plan, which includes the "Portrait of a Learner-Portrait of a Graduate" initiative.

"Our Public School System's goal is to produce high school graduates who are prepared for college, the workforce, and life. This initiative aims to provide our students with the confidence that they have a place in our community—on this island—and that they can use their knowledge and abilities to contribute," said Education Commissioner Dr. Camacho during the first phase of the two-week session scheduled throughout Rota, Tinian, and Saipan.

PSS

Education Commissioner Dr. Lawrenece F. Camacho and Rota Mayor Aubry Hocog exchange ideas during last Tuesday's "Portrait of a Learner" and "Portrait of a Graduate" outreach, training and session on Rota. This is jointly initiated by the Public School System with the Southern Regional Education Board.

Last Tuesday on Rota, Camacho, along with senior director for Instructional Services Jackie Quitugua and Career Technical and Education Program director Dr. Jessica Taylor, joined the representative of the Southern Regional Education Board, Dr. Linda Floyd, for the stakeholders session and outreach.

The SREB is considered to have pioneered and is now the leading organization in the United States to have explored the concept of a "portrait of a graduate" that aligns school district's educational goals with students outcomes.

Floyd and Camacho facilitated the workshop and session with stakeholders of Rota last Tuesday that included Mayor Aubry Hocog, Rota's Department of Labor, Northern Marianas College's CREES Aquaculture Program, and the Northern Marianas Technical Institute for Rota. There were about 30 stakeholders that also attended, along with classroom CTE teachers and school administrators of Rota's Sinapalo Elementary School and Dr. Rita Hocog Inos Junior High School.

PSS

Southern Regional Education Board's Dr. Linda Floyd talks as Education Commissioner Dr. Camacho listens.

With Camacho's leadership, the PSS-CTE Program partnered with SREB on this initiative.

"Our five-year strategic direction calls for cooperation and partnership with all relevant parties, including our parents, teachers, school administrators, and community leaders. Our five-year strategic plan is basically in line with what SREB has," Camacho clarified.

"With our initiative, we are supporting our children's desire to be successful in life, to be problem-solvers of our community, and to give back what they learned from us to this community," Camacho said.

Quitugua agrees: "What we currently have in PSS is exactly the same as their initiative (SREB). Our partnership is about how we can gather the visions of all stakeholders and why it is important in our goal of having high school graduates who are prepared for college, careers, and life."

According to Taylor, PSS is working closely with the Southern Regional Education Board's Floyd on the "Portrait of a Learner" and "Portrait of a Graduate" initiative, and Floyd will be conducting sessions and outreach activities through the school district, starting last Nov. 12.

PSS and the SREB team will travel to Tinian to meet with stakeholders on this initiative for a two-day event on Nov. 19-20, 2024.

Floyd will be conducting training on Simulated Workplace with PSS Career and Technical Education teachers and also conducting walkthroughs across our secondary schools. The training and professional development that will be taking place within two weeks will involve the school district, school leaders, teachers, parents, and other stakeholders. ***(PR)***

PSS

Rota educators that include Dr. Rita Hocog Inos Junior Senior High School principal Annette Calvo, vice principal Deseriee Pendergrass, and classrooms teachers Armie Atalig, Vanee Barcinas, Elvira Mesngon, and Sabrina Calvo were among the participants in last Tuesday's professional development and outreach.

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DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB25-DPW/TSD-42500012

SUBMISSION DATE: DECEMBER 06, 2024 TIME: 09:00 A.M.

"A.) PURCHASE OF TWO (2) CLASS "E" VEHICLES
B.) PURCHASE OF THREE (3) CLASS "F" VEHICLES
FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, TECHNICAL SERVICE DIVISION (HIGHWAY SECTION), SAIPAN"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED ON THE MUNIS VENDOR SELF SERVICE PORTAL (https://selfservice.dof.gov.mp/vss/) OR AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT BLDG. NO. 12386, ASCENSION DRIVE, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS ITB CAN BE MADE TO THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, MS. LORRAINE S. VILLAGOMEZ AT LVILLAGOMEZ.HIGHWAY@DPW.GOV.MP OR KENN ALDAN AT KLADPWTSD@GMAIL.COM.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/RAY N. YUMUL
Secretary, DPW

/S/ GERALDINE T. CRUZ
Acting Director, PS

NMC-CREES expands Agriculture Production program with two agriculture economists

With a commitment to boosting local food production and ensuring economic development in the CNMI, the Northern Marianas College-Cooperative Research, Extension, and Education Services Agriculture Production program welcomes the addition of two highly qualified agricultural economists to its team—Matthew Deleon Guerrero and Dr. Patrick Hoyle.

Deleon Guerrero has an extensive career that has centered around economic research and analysis specific to the CNMI. With master's degrees in International Development and Applied Economics, Guerrero's approach brings a broader perspective on development efforts worldwide, with a particular focus on the unique economic conditions of the CNMI. Guerrero's research primarily focuses on developing data to assess the economic potential of domestic production.

"We have resources in the CNMI, but the use of those resources is governed by economic conditions and incentives that are not well understood," Guerrero shares. His current efforts include a closer examination of pricing data to reveal insights into the factors of production and the preferences of the local population.

Guerrero's research aims to equip farmers and local producers with the data they need to make informed decisions, improve income potential, and promote greater economic activity from local resources. By better understanding the dynamics of the CNMI's economy, Guerrero hopes to target areas that require support, identify growth opportunities, and ultimately contribute to creating a resilient economy. "The goal is to help the CNMI economy become more resilient to the external shocks that have historically hindered growth," Guerrero stated.

Looking to the future, Guerrero's overarching research interest involves examining the viability of small island economies within the global economy. The unique limitations of small islands, such as restricted land and labor resources, present challenges to their global competitiveness and resilience against economic and climatic externalities. His research seeks to provide insights on how these communities can adapt and thrive in an ever-globalizing world.

Hoyle's unique blend of business expertise and sustainability knowledge aligns with the NMC-CREES mission to promote local food security and environmentally friendly practices within CNMI agriculture. His planned research projects aim to bridge the gap between economic models and regenerative agricultural practices. As he begins his journey with the CREES Agriculture Production program, Hoyle will be working on various projects that combine both his economics and regenerative agriculture perspectives. With a unique dual approach from his business acumen and agricultural knowledge, Hoyle hopes to develop a regenerative agriculture curriculum for

See NMC on Page 4

Thank You, Si Yiiyus Ma'ase, yan Ghilisow Reemi!
SOLIDARITY FOR SAFETY
2024 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH
SOLIDARITY FOR SAFETY
JOIN THE MOVEMENT TO END DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

In October, we came together as a community to raise awareness and take a stand for those impacted by domestic violence. We are deeply grateful to the advocates, volunteers, sponsors, friends, families, and community members who joined us in support, showing compassion and a commitment to creating lasting change. With our theme, Solidarity for Safety, we honored survivors' experiences and amplified the importance of safety and support for all. Together, we are working to end domestic violence in the CNMI and to build a community rooted in healing, understanding, and respect. Thank you for standing with us and being part of this movement for a safer, more supportive future.

Lt. Governor David M. Apatang
Dr. Rizalina Liwag

SAIPAN
Speaker Edmund Villagomez
Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio
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Guadalupe Attao
Hangyeol Wendy Son
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Hilah Bacani
Ina Attao
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Interact Club of Marianas High School
Interact Club of Saipan International School
Interact Club of Saipan Southern High School
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Jada Deleon Guerrero
Jane Mack
Jared Ayuyu
Jaylene Reyes
Jeane Merjilla
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Kayla Yi
Keaulei Deleon Guerrero
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Keoni Kaipat
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KKMP CNMI
Kristy Diaz
KwangHee (Jayden) Lim
Kysha Kileleman
Lani Diaz
Lani Fritz
Lauri Ogumoro
Lean Espiritu Santo
Liamwar Rangamar
Lorenzy Leo
Lou Guevarra
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Mariana Teigita
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Matthew Tomokane
Mei Li
Melvin Han
Michael Mancao
Michelle Tekopua
Mike Tenorio
Minerva Wabol
Nadia Moses
Neda Deleon Guerrero
NMC – University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD)
NMC - Nursing Club
NMC - Club of the Artists
Northern Marianas Athletics
Northern Marianas Professional Firefighters Union - Local 5335
Ol'Aces Basketball Club
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Pastor Lito Rey
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Patricinia Kabiriel
Patrick George
Paul Sasamoto
Perry Iguel
Polksai Cultural Dancers
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Sebastian Tajibmai Jr.
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ROTA
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Donna Ogo, Acting RD DCCA
Representative Julie Ogo & Family
Senator Dennis Mendiola & Family
Senator Paul Manglona
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19th Rota Municipal Council
Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
DCCA-Arts Council
DCCA-Division of Youth Services
DCCA-Historic Preservation Office
DCCA-Office on Aging
DCCA-Sports & Recreation
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Department of Fire & Emergency Medical Services
Department of Public Safety
Department of Public Works
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Gerald Manglona
Hagu' Lamun
Karidat Social Services
Marianas Visitors Authority
MOR Division of ID
MOR Field Staff
MOR Inventory Office
MOR Public Information Office
RHIJSHS Americorps
RHIJSHS Youth Advisory Panel
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Sandra Masga, 20th RMC-elect
Team Alibiu
Oscar Quitugua
Honorable Jonovan Lizama
Chloe Hocog
Dina Songao
Doralynn Barcinas
Ivan Mereb, Jr.
Jessica Maratita
Lucille Ayuyu
Mary Lou Quitugua
Mildred Sikebert
Monalyn Mereb
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Sabrina Fran Calvo
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CNMI Judiciary - Mental Health Court Docket
CNMI Judiciary - Office of Adult Probation
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Office of the Governor
Office of the Governor - Substance Abuse, Addiction & Rehabilitation (SAAR) Program
Rotaract Club of Saipan

Avian flu threat prompts temporary ban on poultry imports to CNMI

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

In a swift move to safeguard the CNMI from a looming threat of highly pathogenic avian influenza, HPAI or most commonly known as avian flu, the local Division of Animal Health issued a temporary ban on poultry and egg imports from Hawaii.

In a press release from the division under the Department of Land and Natural Resources, the ban decision follows the detection of the highly contagious avian flu in Hawaii, raising alarms across Pacific island nations as migratory bird season intensifies. The CNMI has also maintained its ban on poultry imports from the U.S. mainland, reinforcing its commitment to protecting local flocks and wildlife.

"If HPAI can reach Hawaii, it can reach here," said Lauren Cabrera of the DLNR Division of Animal Health. "Our goal is to take every precaution to protect the CNMI's poultry industry and safeguard our wildlife."

The press release states that HPAI is known for its devastating effects on domestic poultry, with high mortality rates and severe illness. Classified as a zoonotic disease, the virus can infect humans and other animals, including cattle, under certain conditions. While human transmission is rare, the risks are significant for those in close contact with infected birds or contaminated environments. The detection in Hawaii is an example of how diseases can potentially spread rapidly among fowl especially during periods of increased bird migration.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

GUILTY

From page 1

renewed motion for judgment of acquittal.

Yang, through attorney Cong Nie, argues that acquittal is necessary because he and his wife were mere passengers of the boat to Guam and not a co-conspirator or facilitator of the illegal transport.

"The conduct of defendant is a far cry from what Congress intended to punish by criminal sanctions. Everything Yang did, he did it because he wanted to go to Guam himself with his wife, as passengers. To do what he did, he did not have to have an agreement with someone to commit a transportation offense. Nor did he have to have the intent to help someone commit a transportation offense. Nothing he did could lead a reasonable jury to elevate his status from a mere passenger to that of a co-conspirator or facilitator intending to further another alien's unlawful presence. To find otherwise will frustrate the entire scheme of immigration law and lead to far-reaching consequences," said Nie.

Ultimately, Nie argues that the evidence at trial shows an ordinary transaction to buy boat passage to Guam oppose to the government's main theory of conspiracy alleging that Yang and others conspired to transport each other to Guam by pooling their money together to make the trip happen.

"A person does not auto-

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

BILL

From page 1

intended to provide some kind of protection for consumers as well as the natural resource (corals) that are being used to prepare lime.

"At this time there's nothing in place that requires the manufacturers or producers of lime to get the product tested to ensure that it is safe for consumers to ingest. So, I just wanted to put that protection in place. I know there is no hard evidence or studies linking lime to oral cancer (which is prevalent here in the CNMI) but I at least wanted to start the process where the afok itself is being tested to ensure that there are no foreign ingredients in there that might be harmful to the people who are consuming the product. That's the intent of this proposed legislation," she said.

Essentially the bill focuses on requiring labels on lime being sold to consumers that fully discloses the contents of the substance as well as its effects.

"The bill is really just to ensure that we place some standards as far as labeling where they're being manufactured, where the companies are, I know some of the afok right now have labels that state the ingredients and what not but I want to take it a step further and get it tested," she said.

Committee chair Sen. Donald Manglona (Ind-Rota), in support of the bill, said Guam has taken extra steps to ensure lime sold in stores are properly secured and labeled so the CNMI should do the same.

"I noticed in Guam, afok is properly packaged with a sealed unlike here in the CNMI and this is the same vendor that sends to both CNMI and Guam and it's about requiring the extra packaging and security that nothing else gets added in the process. It will provide better safety standards. I support the intent of the legislation and it just provides an extra safeguard for the consumers. This bill is an extra layer of security to ensure that no extra substances are added other that what would be included in the labeling," he said.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

MVA

From page 1

round. Right now, they're seasonal, but the goal of any destination is to have daily, year-round direct flights from the source markets."

Concepcion shared that companies that helped make this possible are Hana Tours, Leaders Tour, Pacific Islands Club Saipan, Coral Ocean Resort, and Kensington Saipan. "They are collaborating to make these flights happen. So, it's a great partnership between MVA and stakeholders in the market."

During the board meeting, Concepcion also mentioned that more direct tourist flights from the Asia-Pacific region are in the works but he couldn't share the specifics to the press as of yet. The press is expected to hear more in the upcoming months.

AUDITOR

From page 1

reported under Government Auditing Standards.

Ernst & Young identified certain deficiencies in internal control to be material weaknesses.

Material weakness refers to "a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the entity's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis."

CHCC chief financial officer Perlie Santos, Procurement director Cora Ada, and WIC program manager Marie Attao shared to the auditor their corrective actions to address the findings.

Ernst & Young was hired by the CNMI Office of the Public Auditor to audit CHCC's financial statements, which comprise the statement of net position as of Sept. 30, 2019.

The auditor also audited the related statements of revenues, expenses and changes in net position, and cash flows for the year then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements.

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether CHCC's financial statements are free from material misstatement, Ernst & Young performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant statements.

Ernst & Young also issued a report on Nov. 7, 2024, stating that the scope of their audit on the financial statements was not sufficient to enable them to express, and that they did not express, an opinion on such statements.

The auditor stated in that Nov. 7 report that they did not express an opinion due to the inability to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence to support significant account balances and due to CHCC not recording pension expense and related net pension asset or liability, deferred inflows of resources and deferred outflows of resources as of and for the year ended Sept. 30, 2019 as required by Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement No. 68, Accounting and Financial Reporting for Pensions.

The auditor said they do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of CHCC's internal control over financial reporting.

Regarding CHCC's financial statements as of and for the year ended Sept. 30, 2018, they were audited by another auditor who expressed a qualified opinion in those financial statements on Feb. 18, 2022.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

NMC

From page 3

extension and take part in economic research that connects local producers to consumers. From an economist's point of view, Hoyle will incorporate those ideas into the structure and functions of the agricultural sector in the CNMI. From a regenerative agriculture point of view, he will look into cover cropping for soil building, increasing crop yields, and decreasing dependence on chemical applications.

"I would love to see thriving local livestock, produce, and value-added products from the agricultural sector. Residents of the CNMI deserve healthy local food options as opposed to relying on imported goods. That seems a worthwhile endeavor," said Hoyle.

CREES interim dean Patty Coleman expressed enthusiasm for the impactful work that Hoyle and Guerrero will contribute to the islands.

"We are thrilled to welcome two outstanding and accomplished economists Matt and Dr. Patrick to our Proa Tribe," said Dr. Galvin Deleon Guerrero, president of NMC.

"Their expertise will not only strengthen our diverse research work at CREES, but also contribute directly to the growth and sustainability of agriculture in the CNMI, enhancing the work of our farmers and improving our food security on our islands."

Both Hoyle and Guerrero are passionate about addressing the unique challenges and opportunities facing the CNMI's agricultural sector. Their research will provide valuable insights to support the development of a sustainable and economically viable local food system. ***(PR)***

DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-007-25
SUBMISSION DATE: NOVEMBER 27, 2024: 2:00 P.M.
"INSURANCE BROKERAGE SERVICES"

THE BID PACKAGE AND OTHER CONTRACT CONSIDERATIONS IS AVAILABLE FOR PICK UP BEGINNING OCTOBER 28, 2024 AT THE ACCOUNTING DEPARTMENT, COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY, 2ND FLOOR, DEPARTURE BUILDING, FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT UPON PAYMENT OF AN ADMINISTRATIVE FEE OF $100. PAYMENT SHALL BE MADE IN CASH, CASHIER'S CHECK, CREDIT CARD, OR U.S. POSTAL MONEY ORDER. ALL APPLICANTS SHALL PAY THE $100.00 TO RECEIVE A COPY OF THE BID.

BIDDERS ARE TO SUBMIT ONE (1) ORIGINAL AND TWO (2) COPIES IN A SEALED ENVELOPE AND MARKED "CPA INSURANCE BROKERAGE SERVICES (RFP-007-25)" TO THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, 2ND FLOOR, ARRIVAL BUILDING, FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ON OR BEFORE 2:00 P.M., NOVEMBER 27, 2024. BIDDERS SHALL TAKE INTO CONSIDERATIONS ALL CHARGES ASSOCIATED WITH THIS PROCUREMENT BEFORE FINALIZING ITS BID PRICE.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CPA PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION §40-50-1020 AND 1025 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CPA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF CPA.

LEO B. TUDELA
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

DATE: OCTOBER 28, 2024

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
MAIN OFFICE: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2ND FLOOR ARRIVAL BLDG.
PO BOX 501055•SAIPAN•MP•96950
PHONE: (1-670) 237-6500/1 FAX: (1-670) 234-5962
E-MAIL ADDRESS: CPA.ADMIN@PTICOM.COM WEBSITE: HTTPS: WWW.CNMIPORTS.COM

Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Francisco Manglona Borja/Tinian International Airport, Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport

"Car Rental Concessions"
for: CPA-RFP-002-25

(Saipan) CPA Concession No. CRS-2024-20
(Tinian) CPA Concession No. CRT-2024-30
(Rota) CPA Concession No. CRR-2024-40

The Commonwealth Ports Authority ("CPA" or "Authority") is soliciting proposals for the award of a total of three (3) concessions, one (1) per respective Airport, granting the privilege to provide motor vehicle rental services to the traveling public (including the provision of insurance related to motor vehides rented in the operation of such motor vehicle rental services) at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Francisco Manglona Borja/Tinian International Airport, and/or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport ("Car Rental Concession"). The successful proposers will be expected to provide motor vehicle rental services in accordance with its concession and concession agreement at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Francisco Manglona Borja/Tinian International Airport, and/or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport for a period of three years with an option upon entering into a concession agreement with the Authority.

The date of issuance of CPA-RFP-002-25 is Friday, October 18, 2024, and it can be obtained at the issuing office: CPA Administration Office, Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950, Second floor of Arrival terminal at the Saipan International Airport from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday to Friday. CPA offices are closed every other Monday for austerity reasons and also on holidays.

Questions and/or clarification concerning this project shall be in writing and sent to the attention of the Executive Director through email at cpa.admin@pticom.com with copy to Joy Ann Tenorio at joy.tenorio@cnmiports.com no later than Friday, November 8, 2024.

Proposals must be addressed to Commonwealth Ports Authority, Attn: Car Rental Concessions Evaluation Committee, CPA Administration Office, Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950; and submitted to and received by the CPA Administration Office (second floor of arrival terminal at the Saipan International Airport) by or before 12:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 19, 2024, at which time the proposal period shall expire. Please ensure that your proposal clearly indicates the correct concession number corresponding to the location for which you are submitting. Proposals must be accompanied with a non-refundable administrative fee of $100.00. Payment shall be made in cash, credit card, or cashier's check payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority to defray the costs associated with handling and considering the proposal. Proposals are not required to include a prepaid minimum concession fee.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to cancel this RFP and to reject any and all proposals in accordance with its Concession Regulations (NMIAC Chapter 40-70).

LEO B. TUDELA
Executive Director

Congratulations

atkinskroll

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Dealership & Service Center

From the management and staff of

Tan Holdings

HEALTH IS WEALTH

Tan Siu Lin Foundation

Labor reminds employers of COE requirements, common reporting issues

The CNMI Department of Labor reminds all employers of their responsibility to submit accurate and timely Census of Employment forms each quarter.

"As we close out a year since implementing the updated COE forms and submission process in the first quarter of Calendar Year 2024, we have observed a number of recurring issues that may delay processing or complicate compliance," said Labor.

To ensure accurate reporting and compliance, please carefully review and take note of the following common errors and essential reminders:

1. Use the correct Census of Employment form

Many employers are still using outdated versions of the COE form. The latest version of the form is dated July 16, 2024. Reporting with the old form may result in inaccurate counts, particularly regarding separated employees and EAD-C37 visa holders. Please use the updated form available on the website, which includes drop-down menus and automatically calculates various visa statuses within the U.S. full-time and part-time employee counts. In addition, ensure that only employees who worked during the current quarter are reported. If an employee has separated, include them in the report for their final quarter of employment, but do not continue reporting them in future quarters.

2. Submit to the correct destination

All COE forms must be submitted through the official online portal at https://labor.cnmi.gov rather than via email or to individual staff members. The previous Outlook email service is no longer active, and staff members are transitioning to the new system. Submitting your COE through the DOL website ensures that it is directed to the correct processing location for prompt review and handling.

3. Complete the certification section on the COE form

Please ensure that the certification section on the COE form is fully completed. Incomplete certification can result in delayed processing and may require a resubmission.

4. Verify attachments on the online submission

Please verify that the attachment corresponds to the correct company and reporting quarter. To avoid delays, ensure the COE form is fully completed and accurate before submitting, and avoid submitting blank or incomplete forms

5. Include complete company information

The COE form must display the business name exactly as it appears on the official business license. If a DBA (Doing Business As) name is used, include it along with the licensed business name to ensure clarity and accuracy.

6. Avoid duplicate submissions

Please refrain from submitting multiple versions of the same COE form unless a revision or amendment is explicitly requested by DOL. If an amendment is required, indicate "Yes" on the amendment/revision question on the form. This helps our team quickly identify the final version of your submission.

7. Respond quickly to amendment requests

When a COE form requires correction, please resubmit promptly. Delays in resubmission result in an incomplete submission, affecting compliance and data accuracy and may lead to a referral to DOL enforcement.

Over the past year, Labor hasfound that almost 60% of submissions contain errors, underscoring the importance of thorough review and correct use of the COE form. Accurate quarterly data is crucial for compliance and aids in workforce planning, labor market analysis, and maintaining CNMI's economic health.

For more information, visit Labor's website at labor.cnmi.gov or contact our Administrative Services office at (670) 664-3196. Thank you for your attention to these requirements and for your continued cooperation. ***(PR)***

Supreme Court dismisses appeal by Commonwealth

On Nov. 13, 2024, the Supreme Court dismissed an appeal by the Commonwealth for lack of jurisdiction in *Reyes v. Commonwealth*.

The trial court determined that the government could be sued under the Government Liability Act without naming a specific employee, and the Commonwealth attempted to appeal that decision before trial.

Appellant James Reyes moved for dismissal of the appeal because the lower court's order was not the final decision in the case and the Commonwealth would not suffer any harm by continuing to trial without this appeal. The Commonwealth argued either that sovereign immunity would be lost because the government has a right to be free from trial if it does not consent to be sued, or that the government would face increased litigation costs.

The court disagreed with the Commonwealth and granted the dismissal, holding that the government does not have a right to be free from trial. The court also found that a cost-saving objective is insufficient rationale for allowing an appeal before trial and inconsistent with the Legislature's intent. The Supreme Court dismissed the appeal for want of jurisdiction without deciding the merits of the lower court's decision.

The full opinion can be read on the Law Revision Commission website: https://cnmilaw.org/pdf/supreme/2024-MP-08.pdf. ***(PR)***

APASEEM hosts call for presentations to highlight CNMI-focused research

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

Endeavoring to unite a community of researchers, students, and environmental professionals dedicated to exploring and sharing valuable insights on the region, the Asia Pacific Academy of Science, Education, and Environmental Management is excited to invite community members to its upcoming event, "Call for Action in Presentations" this upcoming week.

APASEEM shared with media partners that the event is scheduled for Nov. 20-22, 2024, at the American Memorial Park for a three-day gathering designed to spotlight research centered on the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

APASEEM shared that with a theme delving into "Exploring and Sharing Research in and About the CNMI," this APASEEM event invites a broad audience of science and environmental professionals, as well as students and professors from institutions including the University of Guam, the Northern Marianas College, and the CNMI Public School System to participate in presenting and sharing researches involving the CNMI.

The event will run from 5:30pm to 7:30pm at the American Memorial Park in Garapan, and each evening provide a prime platform for meaningful discussions, networking, and knowledge exchange.

APASEEM is calling for abstracts and presentations from individuals who wish to contribute their research or insights on issues impacting the CNMI, and is hoping to provide an excellent opportunity for experts, emerging scholars, and passionate students to share their findings and perspectives with an engaged audience.

To participate or submit presentations and/or abstracts, interested parties are encouraged to contact APASEEM via email at apaseem@gmail.com. APASEEM can also be followed on various social media platforms for updates and further details, including Instagram and Twitter or X (@apaseemcnmi), LinkedIn (APASEEM CNMI), and YouTube (APASEEM).

In an effort toward bringing the CNMI community together to support and strengthen research that could help shape a sustainable future for the islands, APASEEM invites CNMI residents, especially those with a passion for environmental and scientific advancement, to attend, learn, and contribute. Deadline to submit your work is on Nov. 18, 2024.

COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION (RFQ)

RFQ25-CHCC/DESIGN BUILD-001

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS
DESIGN/BUILD CONTRACTORS FOR COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation (CHCC) is a public corporation and autonomous agency of the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI). In accordance with its Procurement Rules and Regulations, CHCC hereby seeks the services of a qualified Contractors to perform Design/Build Services for Projects located at the hospital in Saipan, Clinics in Tinian and Rota. The selected Contractors will be issued a Contract thru RFQ25-CHCC-DESIGN/BUILD-001. These services are in accordance with CHCC's Procurement Rules and Regulations and procedures shall be in full compliance with Section 140-80.1-250 Pre-Qualification of Contractors and

The Request for Proposals and Scope of Work is available on November 1st, 2024 online at www.chcc.health, navigate to the RFP tab on the left navigation bar, click on the URL for this RFP243-CHCC/DESIGN BUILD-001.

A Pre-conference meeting will be held on November 8th, 2024 at 9:00AM at the Conference Room #2 located in main Executive Office.

Inquiries regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing via email to Ms. Cora P. Ada, Director of Procurement at cora.ada@chcc.health and to Jesse Tudela, COO/Ancillary Director at jesse.tudela@chcc.health no later than November 25th, 2024.

Proposers shall submit proposals and all supporting documents to Corazon P. Ada, Director, CHCC Division of Procurement and Supply, at procurement@chcc.health, no later than: 16300hrs (1630) Chamorro Standard Time on December 4th, 2024.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORA P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

SAIPAN HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
Office of the Mayor
Municipality of Saipan

NOTICE OF REGULAR SHEFA BOARD MEETING

In accordance with 1 CMC § 9901 et seq., as amended, the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance (SHEFA) Board is hereby giving notice of its regular board meeting, to be held on November 18th, 2024, at 3:00 pm, Office of SHEFA conference room, 2nd Floor, CTC Building, Oleai, Beach Road, Saipan.

AGENDA

I. **Preliminary Matters**
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of Minutes from October 7th, 2024

II. **Public Comment (s)**

III. **Committee Reports**
a. Committee on Awards
b. Committee on Appeal/Deferments/Forbearance
c. Committee on Policy and Procedures
d. Committee on Program and Development
e. Committee of Fiscal, Legislative, and Community Affairs

IV. **Administrator's Report**

V. **Chairwoman's Report**

VI. **Old Business**
Fall 2024 Application Status

VII. **New Business**
Spring 2025 Application Status

VIII. **Executive Session**

IX. **Miscellaneous Matters**

X. **Next Meeting**

XI. **Adjournment**

/s/ Ms. Kaelani B. Demapan- Chairwoman, Board of SHEFA Directors

P.O. Box 10001, PMB 3648 Saipan, MP 96950-8901
Tel: (670) 233-5995/235-1020/21 • Telefax: (670) 233-5996
E-mail: saipanshefa@gmail.com • Website: www.saipanshefa.com

Radewagen applauds nomination of Rubio to Secretary of State

File photo of Delegate Uifa'atali Amata Radewagen (R-A. Samoa) with Sen. Marco Rubio (R-FL).

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

WASHINGTON, D.C.— Delegate Uifa'atali Amata Radewagen (R-A. Samoa) is hailing the announcement that President-elect Trump is nominating Sen. Marco Rubio of Florida to serve as the next Secretary of State.

"This is one of the most important positions in the U.S. Government, and Sen. Rubio is an excellent choice," said Radewagen. "Senator Rubio has made foreign policy and national security an in-depth priority of his years in the Senate. As a son of Cuban immigrants, he deeply understands the realities of communism, the value of freedom, and the clear reasons the United States must maintain a strong commitment to the Pacific as a diplomatic counterweight to the activities of the CCP. I welcome this appointment; it increases my optimism about the next few years for U.S. policy in the Pacific. I hope the Senate sets aside all partisanship to confirm this nominee rapidly and send a message to the world of unity and strength in foreign affairs."

In September, Radewagen spoke on the House floor in support of a Rubio-sponsored Senate bill to reauthorize the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF), which was passed by the House.

Sen. Marco Antonio Rubio, 53, embodies an American success story, as the son of Cuban immigrant parents, often described as a bartender and a maid. Educated as a lawyer, he is a former Speaker of the Florida House of Representatives, and an author. A Catholic in his faith, he is married with four children.

The historic position of Secretary of State, which is fourth in line for the presidency in extraordinary circumstances, was created by Congress in 1789 during the first presidential administration of President George Washington, who selected Thomas Jefferson as the first Secretary of State. Washington's first Cabinet had just four offices: Secretaries of State, Treasury, War (now Defense), and Attorney General.

Upon confirmation of this appointment, Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, a Republican, would fill the Senate seat by appointment for the remainder of Sen. Rubio's third term. ***(PR)***

Radewagen hails UN ambassador nomination of Stefanik

Radewagen

WASHINGTON, DC— Delegate Uifa'atali Amata Radewagen (R-A. Samoa) is applauding the announcement by President-elect Trump that Congresswoman Elise Stefanik will be nominated for U.S. ambassador to the United Nations.

"Congresswoman Stefanik is a friend and colleague, but also a classmate, as we were first elected at the same time in 2014," said Radewagen. "She is a strong leader and an excellent choice to represent the United States to the largest organization of nations in the world, including all our friends and neighbors in the Pacific region."

"Congratulations to Elise," Radewagen continued. "The U.S. Senate should promptly confirm her so this important role is filled without delay. I look forward to her diplomatic efforts especially in working with her Pacific counterparts from our region."

Stefanik, 40, has been in House leadership roles for years, including heading up the Republican Conference for the past several years. When elected, she was at the time the youngest woman ever elected to Congress. Prior experience includes roles in the George W. Bush administration and in the White House Chief of Staff's office.

Upon Senate confirmation, she would join a prestigious list of historic names, several of whom later served in other Cabinet posts, including secretary of State. More notably, the post has been held by one ambassador who later became President of the United States, the 41st President George H.W. Bush.

The post of ambassador to the U.N. was first made a Cabinet level post under President Dwight Eisenhower in 1953, and since then, the full Cabinet status has varied from administration to administration. ***(PR)***

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp Website: http://www.cnmi-cdbgdr.com

AMENDMENT No. 1

INVITATION FOR BID (IFB)
NMHC IFB 2025-001

(This ad is paid by NMHC by HUD funds)

BID SUBMISSION DATE: November 29, 2024, 2:00 p.m.

CONSTRUCTION OF CHILD CARE FACILITY IN ROTA

Project Package will be available on October 29, 2024, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, during regular working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday thru Friday except CNMI holidays. A non-refundable payment of One-Hundred Dollars ($100.00) is required for each set of the project package. Payment must be made payable to NMHC and receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the project package at the reception counter.

Brief description of the project package is available on the NMHC Website at www.nmhcgov.net "Procurement Tab".

The provisions on the NMHC Procurement regulations, NMIAC 100-60-725 AND 100-60-730 Prohibiting Gratuities, Kickbacks and Contingent Fees shall apply.

A Mandatory Pre-Bid Conference will be held at the Rota Mayors Office Conference Hall in Tatachog, Rota on ~~**November 13, 2024, 10:00 a.m.**~~ **November 20, 2024, 10:00 a.m.** In addition, a Mandatory site Visit/Inspection of the project site will be conducted immediately after the Pre-Bid Conference. Failure to attend both the Mandatory Pre-bid conference and the Mandatory site Visit/Inspection will be considered a non-responsive bidder.

For more information, contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager, at (670) 234-9447 or via email at officemanager@nmhcgov.net during business hours, 7:30am – 4:30pm Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

/s/ Jesse S. Palacios
Acting-Corporate Director

/s/ Merced "Marcie" M. Tomokane
Chairwoman
NMHC Board of Directors

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp Website: http://www.cnmi-cdbgdr.com

INVITATION FOR BID (IFB)
NMHC IFB 2025-001

(This ad is paid by NMHC by HUD funds)

BID SUBMISSION DATE & TIME: December 03, 2024, 2:00 p.m.

Vehicle Lease of 3-Sport Utility Vehicles (SUV) for the Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Program in Saipan

Bid information and packet is available on November 18, 2024, at the NMHC website at www.nmhcgov.net by clicking on the "Procurement Tab" or at the CDBG-DR website at www.cnmi-cdbgdr.com.

The provisions of the NMHC Procurement regulations, NMIAC 100-60-725 AND 100-60-730 Prohibiting Gratuities, Kickbacks and Contingent Fees shall apply.

Inquiries regarding this bid shall be submitted to Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager/Procurement Officer via email at officemanager@nmhcgov.net or facsimile at (670)234-9021, on or before September 10, 2024, no later than 10 a.m.

/s/ Jesse S. Palacios
Acting-Corporate Director

/s/ Merced "Marcie" M. Tomokane
Chairwoman
NMHC Board of Directors

Northern Marianas Technical Institute
12966 Lower Base Dr.
P.O. Box 504880 Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION TO BID

NMTI-ITB 2025001
NORTHERN MARIANAS TECHNICAL INSTITUTE
WORKFORCE CAREER TRAINING FACILITY

The Northern Marianas Technical Institute (NMTech), located in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands is soliciting sealed bids for the construction of the Northern Marianas Technical Institute Workforce Training Facility. This project is being funded by the Northern Marianas Technical Institute Workforce Career Training Facility Construction Project from the U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration, EDA Project No. 07-79-07543.

This solicitation is in accordance with NMTech Procurement Regulations §3000-225. To also include provisions of NMTech Procurement Regulations, Section §3000-525 prohibiting kickbacks and gratuities, Section §3000-530 prohibition against contingent fees shall apply.

The project package will be available in digital format only on **Friday, November 1, 2024,** at the NMTech Procurement Office, located at Lower Base, Saipan. Monday through Friday from 8:30am-4:30pm only.

A **Pre-bid Conference** will be held at the Northern Marianas Technical Institute, Lower Base Campus, Saipan, CNMI at 4:00pm **ChST, November 8, 2024.**

All questions or inquiries regarding this ITB is to be submitted via email only to: procurement@nmtechcnmi.org, no later than **4:00pm ChST, November 15, 2024.** All questions and answers will be shared will all prospective bidders.

Bidders located outside of the CNMI must fill out and submit (via email only to procurement@nmtechcnmi.org) the Notice of Intent to Bid Form to the NMTech Procurement Officer no later than **9:30am ChST, December 03, 2024.**

Sealed bids for this project shall be submitted with one (1) original and four (4) copies to the NMTech Procurement Officer located at the NMTI campus, Lower Base, Saipan, MP-96950 no later than **10:00 am, local time, Chamorro Standard Time, December 03, 2024 and must be marked "NMTI-ITB 2025001"**

NMTech reserves the right to reject any and all bids, or portions thereof, and waive immaterial defects if to do so would be in the best interest of the Northern Marianas Technical Institute.

/s/Jodina C. Attao
Chief Executive Officer

/s/ Amy Lynn Babauta
Procurement Officer

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhcgov.net

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

(This ad is paid for NMHC with HUD funds)

NMHC RFP 2025-001
BID SUBMISSION DATE & TIME: December 18, 10:00 a.m.

"ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES"

The Request for Proposals and Scope of Services will be available on November 18, 2024, at the NMHC website at www.nmhcgov.net by clicking on the "Procurement Tab" or by visiting the CDBG-DR website at www.cnmi-cdbgdr.com.

Inquiries or clarification regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing or email to Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager/Procurement Officer at officemanager@nmhcgov.net or submitted by facsimile to (670)234-9021 no later than 4:00 PM local time on December 06, 2024.

The provisions of the NMHC Procurement regulations, NMIAC 100-60-725 AND 100-60-730 Prohibiting Gratuities, Kickbacks and Contingent Fees shall apply.

For more information, contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager/Procurement Officer, at (670)234-6866/9447 or email at officemanager@nmhcgov.net during regular business hours, 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

/s/
Jesse S. Palacios
Acting-Corporate Director
Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC)

/s/
Merced "Marcie" M. Tomokane
Chairwoman
NMHC Board of Directors

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Party of fear—A GOP that once welcomed immigrants gears up for Trump crackdown

After the rhetoric comes the reality. For anyone who thought Donald Trump's immigration talk was just stirring up fear to get elected, his first appointments should make clear he is going to work to make it happen.

Trump is bringing Stephen Miller in as deputy chief of staff for policy and Tom Homan will have the nebulous overarching role of "border czar."

We know what these people are about. Miller was in many ways responsible for the most horrific policies associated with the first Trump term, up to and including the infamous family separation policy and the long-standing Title 42 debacle.

While many others in the Trump orbit are merely grifters, career climbers and assorted other opportunists, Miller is a zealot, a true believer. He wakes up every day with the goal of identifying ways to punish and exclude immigrants, scouring all available administrative paths to this end.

Homan, too, understands that he has received a directive from his incoming boss to stretch the limits of legality and morality in pursuing the program of an unprecedented mass deportation operation.

In an interview with "60 Minutes" last month, Homan said with chilling nonchalance that "of course" there was a solution to the issue of U.S. citizen children being separated from immigrant parents who were deported: to deport the families all together. It didn't seem to cross his mind at all that deporting citizens in any capacity is unlawful.

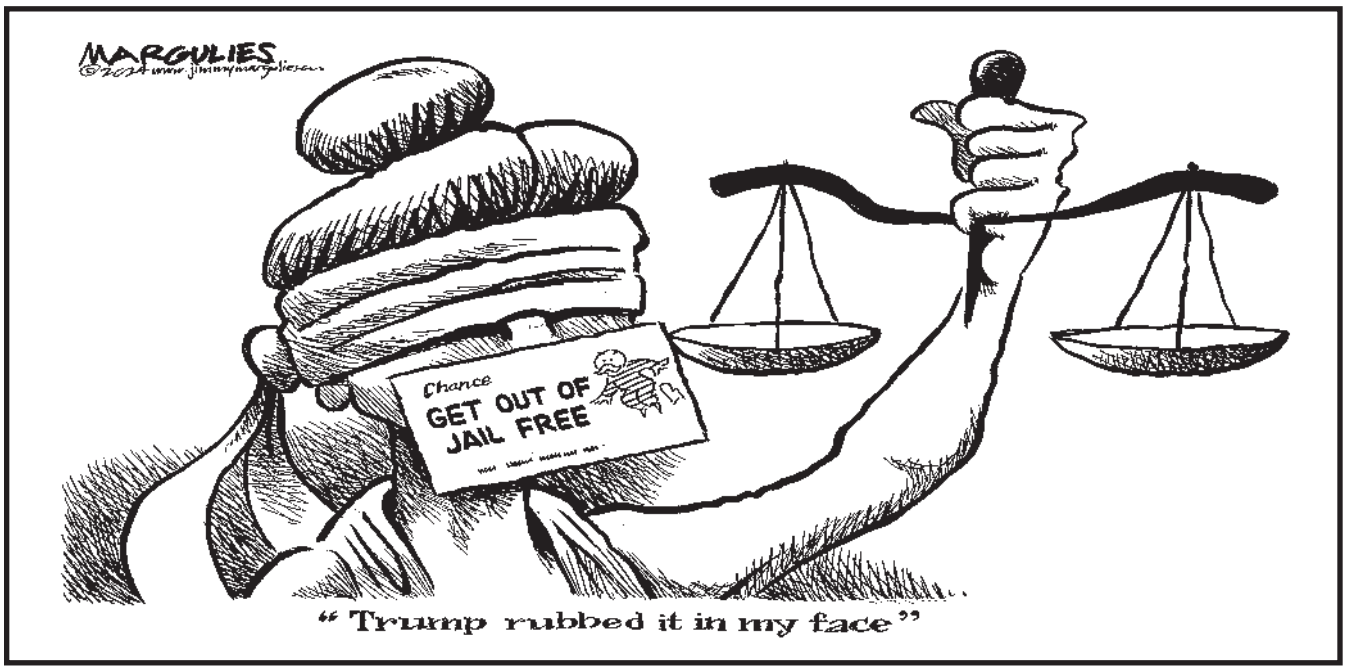
Where the courts once helped parry some of the Trump administration's worst and most brazenly unlawful efforts on immigration, we're far less able to rely on these as a backstop now, stacked as they are with Trump loyalists and right-wing ideologues.

Take the question of birthright citizenship; it is indisputably clearly spelled out in the first sentence of the 14th Amendment for almost a century and a half. Yet in a recent interview, Trump-appointed Federal Appeals Judge James Ho, now occasionally floated as a potential Supreme Court pick, claimed that "the children of invading aliens"—leaning on a right-wing talking point about humanitarian migration being some sort of invasion—are not entitled to that right.

This is still a fringe position, and would not necessarily succeed in a legal case, but there are now dozens of barely-qualified federal judges populating the district and appeals courts, ready to potentially sign off on these and many more extreme policies.

If the prior Congress, with the House held narrowly by the GOP and the Senate by the Democrats, with a Democratic president, was not able to pass any sort of immigration reform measure, this is certainly not happening in a GOP trifecta. What is likelier to happen is a lurch towards further restrictionist policy in Congress, all of the security and surveillance

See PARTY on Page 9



Trump 2.0 will have an unusual amount of power

By NOAH FELDMAN
Bloomberg Opinion

Noah Feldman is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist. A professor of law at Harvard University, he is author, most recently, of "To Be a Jew Today: A New Guide to God, Israel, and the Jewish People."

Right now, Democrats are asking despairingly what, if anything, can constrain Donald Trump from doing whatever he wants in his second term. And Republicans may be assuming optimistically that, with the Senate and the House in his pocket, there will be little to stand in the president-elect's way. I have some good news and some bad news for each group.

Democracy means the rule of the people, and the people have spoken in electing Trump. Constitutional democracy means democracy with constraints. And the constraints we have now are weaker than they have ever been. The classic limits on a president's domestic power include Congress, the courts, fear of impeachment, fear of prosecution, government bureaucracy, and the financial markets, with press and public opinion somewhere in the backdrop. Nearly all of these, except the markets, are substantially weaker for Trump than they have been for any other modern second-term president. None, however, has been absolutely eliminated, and all will matter for shaping Trump's presidency.

What follows is a primer on Trump's limits—which is also, at a deeper level, an account of what constitutional democracy looks like at this particularly delicate moment in the history of the American republic.

The legislature

The legislative branch is the obvious place to start. Republicans will have narrow majorities in the Senate and the House, a similar situation to the start of Trump's first term in 2017. And any president needs Congress to pass major legislation.

But Trump ran for office without proposing any specific, major legislative program that would require congressional approval.

If he decides to proceed mostly through executive orders, it would limit Congress' leverage in a second Trump term.

Some of his suggestions, like eliminating the income tax, would certainly demand both houses of Congress be on board, and it

could be difficult to get their acquiescence given the massive fiscal shortfalls such a plan would create. But Trump may never have really intended to make such a transformational step. And he will have no trouble getting majorities in both houses to approve tax cuts.

You might think that Trump's tariffs would require legislative action. Congress, not the president, has the constitutional right to set import duties. But Congress gave away many of its powers on tariffs years ago. A range of laws authorize the president to impose tariffs when he finds various conditions to be met. And according to Trump's last administration, under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act of 1977, the president can invoke emergency powers to impose tariffs entirely on his own. Congress could reverse those tariffs, but only by a two-thirds majority in both houses. It's unclear whether the IEEPA could be used to impose tariffs on, say, Mexico. But when Richard Nixon imposed a tariff using similar emergency powers under a predecessor statute, an appeals courts upheld the action.

And it's worth noting that the incoming Congress will be substantially more MAGA-oriented than the Republican Congress of 2017 to 2019. There may be much more support for Trump's most extreme actions now than in the past. Indeed, rather than checking Trump, some in Congress may want to press Trump to be even more radical than he would choose to be on his own—for instance, by passing a national abortion ban that Trump has said he would not support.

Congress, of course, also has some oversight power over executive branch actions. But it's unlikely to use those powers to investigate the Trump administration if Republicans retain their majorities. Regardless, oversight only works if anyone cares what congressional investigations uncover. Trump doesn't care, and very probably, neither does a majority of the public.

Impeachment is the other constitutional tool that the framers gave to Congress to constrain a president who blatantly violates the rule of law. Yet impeachment, I am sorry to say, is now effectively dead as a meaningful tool, at least with regard to Trump. Trump was impeached twice—first for his attempt to get Ukraine to target Joe Biden before the 2020 election and second for his role in the violence of Jan. 6, 2021. Unashamed, Trump fought back and twice avoided removal by the Senate.

Trump's reelection strongly indicates that most of the American public doesn't care about impeachment where Trump is concerned. Ask yourself: if Democrats win the House, what conduct would merit a third impeachment—and what conduct would at this point shock the public? Maybe there's something Trump could do that would ignite righteous indignation among his supporters. But at this point, it's hard to imagine what that would be.

The courts

According to the design of the Constitution, the judiciary is the other branch that's supposed to check the president. And in a second Trump term, the courts will perhaps the best avenue to limit Trump's wilder impulses.

In Trump's first term, the courts did reasonably well at constraining his actions when they were demonstrably in violation of federal law. Trump had to reformulate his Muslim travel ban multiple times before the Supreme Court upheld a version of it. After that, the courts gave him less latitude. He was blocked from corrupting the U.S. census, for example, and from rescinding the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, or DACA, program.

It's true that Trump later went on to appoint a massive number of very conservative judges to the federal bench, and that in at least some courtrooms, there will now be less resistance to Trump's more extreme actions. However, at the Supreme Court, despite Trump's three appointments, there are still at least three conservative justices who would probably be prepared to join the court's liberals to block presidential actions that are clearly lawless—Chief Justice John Roberts, Justice Brett Kavanaugh

See TRUMP 2.0 on Page 9

Turning election anxiety into positive action

By F. WILLIS JOHNSON
The Fulcrum

F. Willis Johnson is a United Methodist pastor, the author of " Holding Up Your Corner: Talking About Race in Your Community " and program director for the Bridge Alliance, which houses The Fulcrum.

The 2024 election has come and gone, leaving a nation still reeling from the aftershocks of a deeply divisive campaign season. Regardless of party affiliation, Americans from all walks of life are grappling with the weight of uncertainty. Anxiety, fear and a sense of unease linger in the air, a potent mix of emotions that threatens to fracture our already polarized society further.

Yet, even amidst the turmoil, there lies an opportunity to put aside partisan differences, channel our collective nervous energy into positive action and reaffirm the shared humanity that binds us as one people.

The human spirit possesses an inherent power, a resilience that has allowed us to persevere in the face of adversity time and again. We've witnessed this indomitable will in the aftermath of natural disasters, economic downturns and social upheaval—always adapting, always emerging stronger. The days and weeks following the 2024 election will undoubtedly be fraught with emotion, but we must draw upon this wellspring of inner strength to navigate the challenges ahead.

Regardless of the outcome, our commitment to respect for all individuals, dignity in our interactions and the peaceful transfer of power that has defined our democracy must remain unwavering. We cannot allow anxiety and uncertainty to paralyze us; instead, we must transform these feelings into a catalyst for growth, change and unity.

So, how can we channel election anxiety into positive expressions? First and foremost, it's essential to stay informed but avoid obsession. In the age of 24-hour news cycles and social media echo chambers, it's easy to get sucked into a never-ending vortex of political coverage. While awareness is crucial, obsessing over minute-by-minute updates only fuels anxiety. Set boundaries—limit your news intake to specific times of the day, avoid social media if necessary, and seek out reputable, balanced sources.

Take action. One of the most empowering ways to combat anxiety is to take concrete steps toward creating the change you wish to see—volunteer for a cause you believe in, even if only for a few hours. For instance, you could volunteer at a local food bank, participate in a community clean-up or help out at a shelter. Donate to organizations aligned with your values. These actions serve as a potent reminder that we have agency, that our voices matter and that change begins at the grassroots level.

Amidst the chaos, it's easy to neglect our well-being—practice self-care. Mindfulness practices like meditation or deep breathing exercises can help calm the mind and soothe the body. Reach out to friends, family or mental health professionals if feelings of anxiety become overwhelming. Taking care of ourselves is not a luxury but necessary to build a more compassionate and united society.

Seek common ground. It's easy to get caught up in the "us versus them" mentality that dominates political discourse. Yet, at our core, we share far more than what divides us. Engage in respectful conversations with those of differing political views. You may be surprised at the commonalities you uncover.

Fostering empathy and understanding is a powerful antidote to the toxic polarization that plagues our nation.

The days and weeks ahead will undoubtedly bring efforts designed to divide us further, such as misinformation campaigns, inflammatory rhetoric and attempts to undermine our democratic institutions. Let us not give in to such tactics.

Instead, let's prove that even in the face of profound disagreement, we can model the very civility and compassion we wish to see in our leaders. Treat others respectfully, listen to their perspectives and engage in constructive dialogue. This is the path forward, the only way to heal the deep wounds inflicted by this election season.

Nov. 5 was not the culmination of an election but rather a commencement—the start of a new chapter in the grand tome of our nation's narrative. America, let us draw a collective breath, filling our lungs with the promise of possibility.

Square our shoulders and steady ourselves against the inevitable storms that will assail us. And let us live forward. Not unaware, but undaunted and united.

Forward into the not-yet with our collective strength. We are Americans, a pluralistic national experiment whose founding principles are far more significant than any fleeting division that may seek to fracture us.

The question remains: What story will we pen? Will we allow anxiety and fear to guide our hands, or will we choose a different path? The choice is ours and ours alone. A choice for unity over division, empathy over indifference and hope over despair. Let us prove that the American spirit remains unbroken even in the darkest times.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Saddened

I was saddened to hear the news about the closure of the *Saipan Tribune*. I wanted to take a moment to express my sincerest si yu'us ma'åse for your dedication to reporting the latest news in the CNMI, always with fairness and impartiality. More importantly, I am grateful for the way *Saipan Tribune* provided a platform for athletes to shine and, in some cases (like myself. lol), gave them a voice to share their side of the story.

In my family, we often joke that "it's better to be on the back page than the front page of the newspaper," but your work made both pages equally valuable.

I wish *Saipan Tribune* the very best in their future endeavors.

John "Shake and Bake" Sablan
San Antonio (now in Guam)

PS
Gone are the days, when *Saipan Tribune* baptized ballers with cool nicknames. Now, the dart players get all the great names. Peace!

PARTY

From page 8

that Republicans have sought for years without any of the paths to citizenship or additional protections that these deals usually include.

As much as Trump's Republican Party likes to pretend it is taking up the mantle of Reagan and Lincoln, these figures would have been disgusted by these developments. Reagan and a Republican Senate famously granted nearly 3 million undocumented immigrants permanent status not 40 years ago. Now, the GOP would just as soon send troops into American streets to round up those folks that their standard-bearer once gave a chance to. For shame.

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TRUMP 2.0

From page 8

and Justice Amy Coney Barrett.

The other way the legal system can limit a president's behavior is if he fears that his associates might be criminally prosecuted—or that he himself might be prosecuted after leaving office. But it seems fair to say that Trump's Department of Justice will not be investigating any part of his administration for overreach. That was obvious even before he announced plans to nominate Florida Representative Matt Gaetz to be attorney general.

As for Trump himself, he has now lived through what most ex-presidents would have considered the nightmare scenario of being in criminal jeopardy. He responded by weaponizing the prosecutions against him and winning reelection — as well as winning a major grant of presidential immunity from the Supreme Court. Together, those developments have all but eliminated the threat of further federal criminal prosecution. (His state criminal convictions in New York remain, at least for now, but no one seriously believes he will serve any jail time in connection with them.) The upshot is that he can now be fairly unconcerned about further criminal prosecution.

Civil servants

The career civil servants who make the government work on a day-to-day basis—the people whom Trump has denounced as the deep state—are another candidate for limiting Trump's ability to do whatever he wants. Famously, some civil servants claimed during Trump's first term that they were working to hinder Trump's policies from within the administration with the protection of their lifetime appointments.

Certainly, Trump believes that his efficacy was limited by the bureaucracy in his first term. That's why he has a plan to fire many senior civil servants and presumably put the fear of God into whomever he chooses to keep on.

That plan goes by the name of Schedule F. According to the Civil Service Act of 1978, civil service protections don't extend to any federal employee "whose position has been determined to be of a confidential, policy-determining, policy-making or policy-advocating character." Late in his first term, Trump issued an executive order that created an authority to reclassify some civil servants as belonging to this legal category, placing them under the Schedule F rubric. The plan was then to fire them if they didn't toe the Trump line. No one knows exactly how many people Trump planned to reclassify, because in the end, the provision was never exercised.

Now Trump has promised to bring back Schedule F. If he does, there will be a major legal fight about it. It seems likely that, if Trump wins that fight, some meaningful number of key career civil servants will choose to resign. That would be principled, but would also ensure that they would no longer be in a position to limit any especially reckless or lawless actions.

One potential constraint on Trump would be that, if he were to lose a huge number of civil servants, running the government would become difficult—thus making it harder to enact any policies of any kind. But a breakdown in government efficacy is hardly something to root for.

The media, the markets and the masses

Now that we've exhausted the main governmental mechanisms for restraining Trump, what's left are the nongovernmental institutions like the press, the markets and public opinion.

There has never been a president who was less constrained by what the press has to say about him. The underlying reasons for his ability to escape the consequences of press condemnation are complex and manifold. They started with his celebrity status; extended to the country's political polarization; and were consolidated by social media and the rise of channels like YouTube and podcasts, which together have the capacity to cut out the legacy press from the formation of public opinion.

At a personal level, Trump likely doesn't enjoy being attacked by major media outlets. Perhaps some news stories would be sufficiently heartrending to affect policy, like when 2018 reporting about family separations at the border appeared to spur the administration to roll back that policy. But it will be hard to see how anyone could think the press will meaningfully limit his actions. He can govern without Fox News.

Trump does care about what the financial markets think of his policies, though. What's more, the markets pretty clearly also believe that Trump is listening. That's the only rational explanation for why the markets would respond so positively to Trump's reelection when his most consistent economic messages have been self-destructive tariffs and wanting to meddle with the Fed. Those changes would scare the markets if investors truly believed Trump would achieve them. Yet if Trump is just floating ideas, and willing to reverse course in the face of market jitters, then there's less for investors to worry about.

On the one hand, it's a good thing the markets are capable of checking some of Trump's more dangerous ideas. On the other, financial markets aren't designed to preserve democratic institutions, and care about democracy only insofar as it provides a stable set of structures to facilitate the accumulation of capital. As we know from the example of China, capital can be deployed—and grow—in the absence of democracy. A democracy that's relying on the financial markets to keep the president in check is a democracy that has squandered most of the mechanisms the framers put in place to preserve it.

Ultimately, then, we come to public opinion. The sad, sad truth is that the public can only constrain a president if the public possesses what the framers called political virtue: the values, understanding, and attention necessary to make good judgments. Richard Nixon was a second-term president when he resigned in the face of his anticipated shame at being impeached and perhaps tried criminally. That shame was connected to his perception that the public—and members of his own party—were horrified by his conduct in the Watergate scandal.

Where the public no longer is capable of feeling shock or horror, no possibility of shame exists for any president. Of course, Trump himself seems remarkably free of shame; but that is merely incidental in a world where the public can't be counted on to think he should be ashamed.

The authors of the U.S. Constitution did not want their fragile new republic to rest on the private virtues of public figures. That's why they designed a system of checks and balances. We can't keep eroding those checks and expect our democracy to come through unscathed.

Business

Gather, feast, give thanks at The Terrace's Thanksgiving Brunch

Celebrate the season of gratitude at The Terrace at Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan! This Thanksgiving, Thursday, Nov. 28, from 11am to 2pm, join us for a Thanksgiving Brunch packed with seasonal favorites and island-inspired flair.

Our talented chefs have prepared Thanksgiving favorites that guests will truly enjoy, including:

■ Smoked roasted turkey—A traditional must-have, roasted to perfection.

■ Maple-glazed baked ham—Smothered with a hint of cloves for a warm, aromatic touch.

■ Certified angus beef brisket—Smoked and slow-cooked for the ideal tender bite.

■ Steamed blue parrot fish – A flavorful local addition to the feast.

To complete the holiday meal, the brunch offers seafood on ice, sushi, sashimi, and a dessert spread featuring traditional pies such as apple, pumpkin, pecan, and more for a sweet finish.

Early bird discount

Reserve by Friday, Nov. 22, to enjoy a 20% discount on your Thanksgiving brunch. The brunch is priced at $75 per adult and $25 per child (4-11 years). The early bird discount is available for adult prices only. Be sure to secure your spot early, as seats are limited!

For reservations, call (670) 234-6412, email restaurants.cprsaipan@ihg.com or book online at saipan.crowneplaza.com/offers/thanksgiving-brunch/.

Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan is excited to welcome you to The Terrace for a warm and inviting Thanksgiving gathering filled with all the flavors and traditions of the season. Reserve your seats now and come celebrate the joy of Thanksgiving with friends, family, and a feast to remember.

CPRS

Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan is excited to welcome you to The Terrace for a warm and inviting Thanksgiving gathering filled with all the flavors and traditions of the season.

For the latest updates, follow us on social media! Facebook/Instagram: @crowneplazaresortsaipan and @theterraceclubsaipan.

Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan is a 422-room hotel located in Garapan. Guests will be greeted by the resort's lush tropical gardens and panoramic view of Micro Beach, with Crowne Plaza's warm and friendly hospitality ensuring a seamless arrival. ***(PR)***

SBDC professionals highlighted in *Guam Business Journal*'s 40 Under Forty

Three professionals from the CNMI Small Business Development Center at Northern Marianas College were recently highlighted in *Guam Business Journal*'s 40 Under Forty, a competitive list of young leaders selected amongst a diverse group from across the region.

CNMI SBDC's Charlene M. Ogo, Mercilynn K. Palec, and Roman M. Tudela were included in their fourth edition and were recognized and acknowledged at *GBJ*'s 40 Under Forty Gala.

Ogo

Palec

Tudela

Ogo currently serves as the director and business advisor for the CNMI SBDC on Rota. Ogo holds a Bachelor's in Health Administration and a Master's of Business Administration, which provide a strong foundation for her role at the Rota SBDC. As a former owner of Bake Me Happy, she gained valuable entrepreneurial experience that led her to establish Sweet7Oh! on Saipan, offering custom catering services. Her educational background and business ventures reflect her commitment to community growth and economic development in the CNMI.

Palec serves as the associate network director for the CNMI SBDC. Palec holds a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education from Northern Marianas College and a Master of Public Administration from the University of Guam. She combines her academic background with a passion for community service, volunteering with the NMI Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence and serving as chairwoman for the NMI Girl Scouts. Alongside her daughter, Palec operates a small business creating handmade hair accessories, reflecting her dedication to local artistry. Her diverse pursuits reflect her mission to inspire creativity and growth within her family and community.

Tudela is the marketing manager for the CNMI SBDC, and was also recently recognized in the national 2024 SBDC 40 under 40 as well as the 2024 CNMI SBDC Network State Star recipient. Tudela graduated with an Associate of Applied Science in Business Administration with an Accounting Emphasis and a Bachelor's of Science in Business Management from NMC and a Master of Business Administration from the University of Texas Permian Basin. As president of both the SHRM CNMI Chapter and the Northern Marianas College Alumni Association, Tudela advocates for professional growth and community involvement. His early experiences at his grandfather's general store on Saipan sparked a lifelong commitment to supporting local businesses and economic development.

"We are proud to see Charlene, Mercilynn, and Roman—great members of our Proa Tribe—recognized as three of *Guam Business Journal*'s 40 under Forty," said NMC president Dr. Galvin Deleon Guerrero.

"This recognition highlights not only their achievements and leadership but also their commitment to excellence and service for businesses within the community. The recognition of CNMI SBDC and its representatives in *Guam Business Magazine*'s 40 Under 40 is a testament to their relentless commitment and heartfelt dedication to the small business community in the Northern Mariana Islands. This achievement reflects the countless hours they've invested in guiding entrepreneurs through both opportunities and challenges, and it symbolizes the impact of their efforts on local economic growth and resilience. By equipping small business owners with the tools to succeed—from essential skills training to navigating complex funding landscapes—these young leaders are building a stronger, more self-reliant community. Their acknowledgment not only celebrates their professional accomplishments but also honors their deep-rooted passion for making a lasting difference in the CNMI. ***(PR)***

COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-25-003

CONSTRUCTION OF AS MATUIS TEMPORARY TANK

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the construction of **a temporary water tank in As Matuis.**

The project consists of a temporary water tank in As Matuis with the furnishing of all labor, supervision, equipment and materials for a new temporary fiberglass tank located in As Matuis. The work shall be done in accordance with the Project Plans and Specifications and without disruption to the daily operation of the water system. CUC requires the Project to be completed in Two Hundred Seventy (270) calendar days from date of award of contract.

The project is funded by a grant from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from USEPA.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $200.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by site visits will be held on **November 26, 2024 at 1:00 PM (CHST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) hardcopies of the bid must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-25-003, Construction of As Matuis Temporary Tank" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (CHST) on December 19, 2024,** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time.

Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. **Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.**

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 a.m. (CHST) on December 3, 2024** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address, manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Marcela Tenorio, P&S, Senior Administrative Technician at marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and to waive any defects in said bid, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

KEVIN O. WATSON
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Officer

Life & Style

Jake Paul believes he can fight for championship belt

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)—Jake Paul believes he can fight for a championship belt within two years.

Mike Tyson didn't rule out another return to the ring after the 58-year-old former heavyweight champion's first sanctioned pro bout since 2005.

An event hyped like a prize fight turned into a glorified sparring session, the eight-round bout won by Paul in a lopsided unanimous decision at the home of the NFL's Dallas Cowboys on Friday night.

There will continue to be questions for Paul over when he will fight a contender in his prime, as opposed to aging former champs, mixed martial artists or journeymen boxers.

The 27-year-old YouTuber-turned-boxer's answers have been consistent, and now he has a timeline.

"I think it could happen in the next 24 months," Paul said. "I truly, truly believe in my skills and my ability and my power. And the cruiserweight division is seemingly open for the taking on that timeline."

Tyson, whose last fight before retiring was a loss to Kevin McBride 19 years ago, said he was confident in taking on Paul because of an entertaining exhibition against Roy Jones Jr. in front of no fans during the pandemic in 2020.

A shorter fight (instead of 10 or 12 rounds) with shorter rounds (two minutes instead of three) and heavier gloves fell far short of entertaining.

The International Boxing Hall of Famer came at Paul hard in the opening seconds, and briefly again to start the second round. Otherwise, he mostly let Paul come to him, and Paul said he thought Tyson was too fatigued to be a threat beyond the third round.

AP

Jake Paul lands a left to Mike Tyson during their heavyweight boxing match, Friday, Nov. 15, 2024, in Arlington, Texas.

» Mike Tyson won't say he's finished at 58

Still, Tyson wouldn't say it was his last fight after the officially recorded loss dropped his record to 50-7 with 44 knockouts.

"It depends on the situation," Tyson said before suggesting a fight with Paul's older brother, Logan Paul, who was standing near him in the ring.

"I'll kill you, Mike," Logan Paul shot back, using an expletive for emphasis.

There's no question the younger Paul will be back in the ring. The former social media influencer started boxing about 4 1/2 years ago and has always said he wants to be a championship fighter.

"He's a very good fighter," said Tyson, the undisputed heavyweight champ from 1987-90, after Paul won 80-72 on one judge's scorecard and 79-73 on the other two.

Paul still has plenty to prove, though. He is 11-1 with seven knockouts, the only loss to Tommy Fury, the less-accomplished brother of former heavyweight champion Tyson Fury.

The former Disney Channel star has proven he can create hype for just about any fight.

The first live sports event on the streaming platform Netflix drew tens of millions of viewers, with Paul suggesting it was 120 million while also saying the company he co-founded, Most Valuable Promotions, would provide numbers Tuesday.

According to reports, Paul's payday was $40 million, compared with $20 million for Tyson. Paul mentioned his number during a promotional event over the summer.

Organizers estimated the AT&T Stadium crowd at 72,000, and it appeared to be a legitimate number.

"There may never be another moment like this in boxing, but I believe we can find something," Paul said. "And I think there are a few names out there that make sense, that the events will be just as big."

In the days before his fight with Tyson, Paul mentioned super middleweight champion Canelo Alvarez, considered one of the best boxers in the world.

An opponent of that magnitude is probably at least several fights away for Paul, and it might not be long before age becomes an issue for the 34-year-old Alvarez.

Paul's camp will never question its ability to put on a show.

"Boxing is ebbs and flows, ups and downs, big events, small events, medium-size events," said Nakisa Bidarian, Paul's promoter. "Our philosophy is it's not about what is the decision that happens in the ring. It's about the attitude that you have and the product you create and how you entertain the fans. And there's no more entertaining of an athlete than Jake Paul."

Betty White Forever: New stamp will honor the much-beloved 'Golden Girls' actor

The United States Postal Service might have found a way to unite a nation bitterly divided after this month's election: It's releasing a Betty White stamp.

The beloved actor known for roles in "The Golden Girls," "The Mary Tyler Moore Show," "Boston Legal," and others will be on a 2025 Forever stamp, USPS announced Friday.

White died in late December 2021, less than three weeks before her 100th birthday. The Postal Service hasn't announced a release date for the stamp.

"An icon of American television, Betty White (1922–2021) shared her wit and warmth with viewers for seven decades," the Postal Service said in announcing the stamp, which depicts a smiling White based on a 2010 photograph by celebrity photographer Kwaku Alston. "The comedic actor, who gained younger generations of fans as she entered her 90s, was also revered as a compassionate advocate for animals."

White

Boston-based artist Dale Stephanos created the digital illustration from Alston's photo.

"I'd love to send a letter back to my 18-year-old self with this stamp on it and tell him that everything is going to be OK," Stephanos posted on Facebook.

Regardless of personal politics, self-proclaimed supporters of President-elect Donald Trump and Vice President Kamala Harris reacted with delight on social media.

"Betty White was my hero, all of my life! I actually had a doll when I was a little girl I named Betty White," one Trump supporter posted on X, formerly Twitter.

"Something to make this awful week a little better: We're getting a Betty White stamp," posted a pro-Harris X account.

White combined a wholesome image with a flare for bawdy jokes. Her television career began in the early 1950s and exploded as she aged.

"The only SNL host I ever saw get a standing ovation at the after party," Seth Meyers posted on Twitter after her death. "A party at which she ordered a vodka and a hotdog and stayed til the bitter end." ***(AP)***

Mom weathers deep emotions as children grow up

DEAR ABBY: I had my four children by the time I was 24. My oldest is a senior, while my others are a sophomore, eighth grader and a seventh grader. I feel, at times, that I go through a grieving process more now than ever as they are getting older and time is racing by so incredibly fast.

Is it normal to feel sadness and grief over your children growing up, knowing they are going to be gone in a few years? My oldest just joined the military and leaves after her final year of high school. I became a mom at such a young age that it's all I have ever known and dedicated my life to (besides being a wife and health care worker).

Is what I am feeling normal and, if so, does the emotional part of it ever get easier? I pride myself on being the best I can be as a mother and provider, and I am having a hard time —especially with my oldest—knowing that I have to let go.

INVESTED MAMA IN TENNESSEE

DEAR MAMA: People experience "empty nest syndrome" to varying degrees. You are a successful parent, but you are also more than that. You have raised your daughter to (young) adulthood and prepared her for independence. That was your job. She is not dying, you are not losing her and she isn't "disappearing over a sand dune." She now has a chance to use the skills you have taught her to create a successful future.

Dry your tears. Be proud of yourself. Be proud of her. Now that your children are older, explore activities that will enrich your own life. You have earned it.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I recently got engaged, and I am thrilled to be marrying such a wonderful man. We communicate well and have never argued until now. Weddings are expensive, and we agreed on a budget. We will be paying for this on our own. Once we started getting into all the costs, we quickly realized we will have to lower the number of guests or increase the budget.

I am completely against increasing the budget to accommodate family members my fiance hardly talks to. I wanted a small wedding anyway. He feels obligated to invite all his extended family members, and I don't understand it. I love him, but why are we obligated to overextend ourselves for people who won't be a major part of our lives going forward?

FRUGAL FUTURE BRIDE IN FLORIDA

DEAR FUTURE BRIDE: Be glad you are having this argument with your fiance early in your engagement. I say this because questions about priorities and how money is spent are among the chief reasons marriages break up. Although this may add to the expenses attached to your wedding, it could head off many problems down the road if the two of you get pre-marital counseling. There may be other ways to cut costs rather than shorten the guest list, particularly if your fiance feels his family members might feel slighted if they aren't invited.

■■■

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY
BY ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

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Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

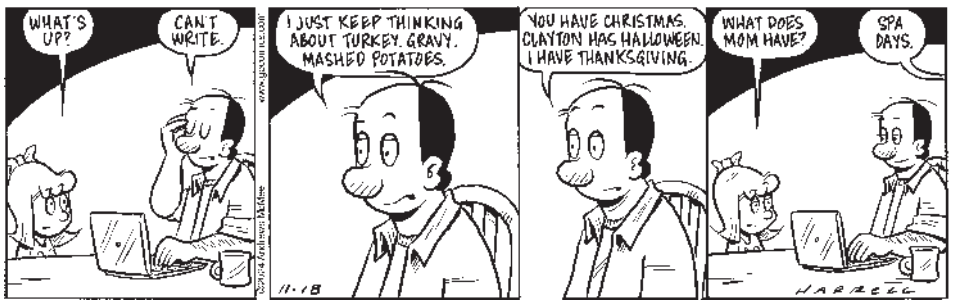
YOU'VE NEVER HAD AN OBLIGATION, AN ASSIGNMENT, OR A DEADLINE IN ALL YOUR LIFE! YOU HAVE NO RESPONSIBILITIES AT ALL! IT MUST BE NICE!
WIPE THAT INSOLENT SMIRK OFF YOUR FACE!
THE REAL FUN OF LIVING WISELY IS THAT YOU GET TO BE SMUG ABOUT IT.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

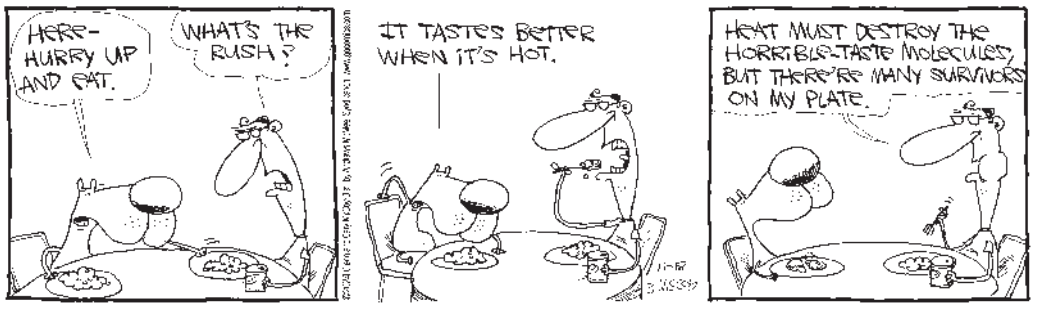
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


WHAT'S UP?
CAN'T WRITE.
I JUST KEEP THINKING ABOUT TURKEY. GRAVY. MASHED POTATOES.
YOU HAVE CHRISTMAS. CLAYTON HAS HALLOWEEN. I HAVE THANKSGIVING.
WHAT DOES MOM HAVE?
SPA DAYS.
HARRELL

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


HERE- HURRY UP AND EAT.
WHAT'S THE RUSH?
IT TASTES BETTER WHEN IT'S HOT.
HEAT MUST DESTROY THE HORRIBLE-TASTE MOLECULES, BUT THERE'RE MANY SURVIVORS ON MY PLATE.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Aromatherapy spot
4 Constitution letters
7 Franc replacer
11 Robust
13 Cattle call
14 Saharan
15 Scrambled wd.
16 Tavern
17 Faction
18 Katherine of "27 Dresses"
20 — Martin (cognac)
22 "Diamonds" singer
24 Sell directly
28 Amaze
32 Singer Lena
33 Serb or Croat
34 State VIP
36 Jogger's tempo
37 "Be silent," in music
39 Icon lineup
41 Greyhound alternative
43 Pint-sized
44 Monumental
46 Sunrises
50 Greek cheese
53 Biblical pronoun
55 Denomination
56 Rara — (Vichy water)
57 Online auction site
58 Say it isn't so
59 Use a straw
60 Use a straw
61 Jazz combo instrument

DOWN
1 Persian leader
2 Glazier's sheet
3 Jai —
4 Diamond arbiter
5 Tart
6 Serious
7 Laid-back
8 Swiss canton
9 Free (of)
10 Lyric poem
12 Breakfast order
19 Lucy of "Elementary"
21 "Whatevs"
23 "Sense and Sensibility" director Lee
25 United — Emirates
26 Bygone Peruvian
27 Ogler's look
28 "The Thin Man" dog
29 Bridge coup
30 Diplomacy
31 Speck
35 Pledge
38 Spigot
40 British ref. work
42 Flying toys
45 Spiced tea
47 Spider creations
48 Final Four org.
49 Charon's river
50 Passing craze
51 Adam's mate
52 Can metal
54 "Uh-huh"

Solution time: 21 mins.

O	O	M	P	H		S	A	G		S	B	A
K	U	A	L	A		C	P	A		C	U	R
S	I	R	E	W		R	O	S	S	I	N	I
		T	A	K	E	U	P		C	O	D	A
M	A	I		E	L	F		P	A	N	T	S
D	O	N	T		A	G	T	E	R			
S	K	I	R	U	N		E	I	F	F	E	L
			A	N	D	R	E		S	E	L	A
I	M	A	G	E		A	T	L		L	O	B
M	A	G	I		S	C	H	O	O	L		
P	O	R	C	I	N	I		O	R	I	T	S
C	R	E		N	A	C		T	O	N	E	S
L	I	E		N	P	R		S	E	I	N	E

Last Friday's answer 11-18

1	2	3	■	■	1	5	6	■	7	8	9	10
11			12	■	13			■	14			
15				■	16			■	17			
18				19	■	20		21		■	■	■
■	■	■	22		23	■	24			25	26	27
28	29	30				31	■	32				
33				■	34		35	■	36			
37				38	■	39		40				
41					42	■	43			■	■	■
■	■	■	44			45	■	46		47	48	49
50	51	52		■	53		54	■	55			
56				■	57			■	58			
59				■	60			■	■	61		

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Damon Wayans Jr., 42; Chloe Sevigny, 50; Owen Wilson, 56; Oscar Nunez, 66.

Happy Birthday: Give yourself the freedom to live life your way. Worry less about what others think and focus more on what makes you happy, gives you strength and stability, and encourages you to expand your mind, improve your body and fulfill your soul. A grateful attitude will help build wealth and well-being. Strive for what brings you joy, and you'll impact how things unfold this year for you and your loved ones. Your numbers are 7, 12, 21, 26, 34, 37, 46.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* A snapshot of your spending habits will bring you back to reality. Cut corners, roll over your bank statements and relinquish redundant expenses. Put a budget together, cap your daily expenditures and be resourceful when using your time to improve your health with little to no cost. ✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* There is a price to pay for everything. Consider the validity or purpose behind your plans, and you'll discover the perfect path to success and longevity. Anger will never fill the void it causes, but acting on your behalf to ensure everything unfolds according to plan will pay off. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Put your energy to good use and do something that makes you feel good about yourself and your contributions. Time is the commodity you can offer that keeps giving back. Put your wallet away and use your skills and experience to make a difference; an unexpected opportunity will evolve. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* An emotional moment will produce an extraordinary outcome. Follow your heart and be creative; respond with warmth and compassion, and something good will follow. Turn what you enjoy doing into something concrete and lucrative. Bare your soul and let the journey begin. Romance is in the stars. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Direct your energy wisely. There is much to accomplish; set your mind on your goal, and the result will be spectacular. Ignore the choices others make; stay on course. The sky is the limit if you listen to your heart and stay true to yourself and those you encounter. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Keep life simple, plans doable and your costs within budget. A change will improve your life if executed within your guidelines and standards. Make fitness and diet priorities and reclaim the look and appeal you know will attract positive attention and new possibilities. ✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Live, learn, reboot and carry on. Communication, revamping your perspective and considering how far you can push to reach your goal will help determine the outcome. Protect your physical well-being and your domestic scene from fallout or someone trying to orchestrate an unhealthy situation. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Keep pressing forward regardless of what others do or say. Make it your mission to surround yourself with convenience, and pick up the pace. The more time you free up, the easier it will be to follow your heart and pursue what makes you happy. Personal gain is favored. ✪✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Concentrate on self-improvement. Check out professional opportunities or price out what it costs to boost your qualifications through education, training or purchasing equipment to enhance your skill set or business venture. Don't trust secondhand information; go directly to the source. Pay attention to the diagnosis and suggestions prescribed. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Keep secrets to yourself. Don't share medical or relationship concerns. Be a good listener, gather information and formulate a plan to protect your reputation, health and emotional well-being. Refrain from believing everything you hear. Someone will exaggerate to capture your interest or take advantage of you. Question everything. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Pivot to ensure you reach demands. As long as you keep moving and bending to the beat of the drum you are dancing to, it will help you reach your destination on time and in good spirits. Trust your instincts, voice your opinion and help those in need. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Get out, participate and spend time with folks who uplift you. Distance yourself from negativity and decline offers that diminish your attributes or slot you in a position that doesn't become you. Focus on change and living the dream that motivates and moves you to take control of your destiny. ✪✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are determined, engaging and optimistic. You are energetic and inventive.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	5	4		8	1	6	2	
3		6	7				8	
					6		5	7
	6				8	1	7	5
2			5				3	
5	7				9	2		
6	3	7	1	4			9	
	9				5		6	
	8	5	6				1	

Difficulty: ★ 11/18

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Friday's Answer

5	1	2	7	6	3	4	8	9
9	8	6	2	4	1	7	5	3
3	7	4	5	8	9	2	6	1
6	2	9	1	3	4	5	7	8
7	5	8	6	9	2	3	1	4
4	3	1	8	7	5	9	2	6
2	4	5	3	1	8	6	9	7
1	6	3	9	2	7	8	4	5
8	9	7	4	5	6	1	3	2

Difficulty: ★★★★ 11/15

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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

WHEY PROTEIN POWDERS Solution: 11 letters

B	C	T	A	E	H	W	E	E	F	F	O	C	R	R
R	E	O	P	E	R	T	C	O	L	L	A	G	E	N
E	R	R	R	T	R	U	G	O	Y	S	K	T	D	A
A	Y	G	R	E	N	E	P	N	E	W	T	L	L	F
K	T	G	N	I	K	A	B	I	E	U	F	L	I	A
F	O	H	D	I	E	T	N	I	B	R	I	E	U	M
A	D	A	L	A	S	S	G	T	F	N	T	E	B	I
S	H	A	K	E	S	H	U	E	A	A	N	S	Y	N
T	N	I	A	R	T	N	W	V	L	I	E	E	D	O
L	A	B	E	L	A	I	I	O	T	C	S	C	O	A
K	E	T	O	E	N	T	C	A	R	C	S	I	B	C
R	A	S	P	A	A	O	E	A	O	K	M	U	M	I
W	S	U	G	M	H	R	R	O	K	E	O	J	M	D
A	O	E	I	C	C	N	P	I	A	E	C	U	A	S
S	V	N	C	S	U	P	P	L	E	M	E	N	T	E

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Amino Acids, Athletic, Baking, Berries, Bodybuilder, Breakfast, Cake, Casein, Chocolate, Coffee, Collagen, Core, Creatine, Diet, Energy, Fiber, Fitness, Iron, Juice, Keto, Label, Meal, Milk, Muscle, Peanut Butter, Pure, Salad, Sauce, Scoop, Shakes, Soup, Strength, Supplement, Train, Vanilla, Vegan, Vitamin, Water, Weight Loss, Wheat, Workout, Yogurt

Last Friday's answer : Eating

The NEW Volume 77 can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480. (In Canada, call 1-855-232-2367)

Tatum's 3-pointer at buzzer in OT gives Celtics victory over Raptors

BOSTON (AP)—Jayson Tatum hit a 3-pointer at the buzzer in overtime and the Boston Celtics rallied to beat the Toronto Raptors 126-123 on Saturday night.

Tatum finished with 24 points and 11 rebounds. Jaylen Brown added 27 points. Al Horford and Derrick White scored 18 points apiece.

Toronto has lost seven straight and failed to register its first road win of the season despite getting a career-high 35 points from Jakob Poeltl, who finished 16 of 19 from the field with 12 rebounds. RJ Barrett added 25 points and 10 rebounds.

With the game tied at 112 in regulation, Barrett connected on a runner in the lane and was fouled by Brown with 59 seconds remaining. But Barrett missed his ensuing free throw.

Boston's Neemias Queta, who started in place of Jrue Holiday (left knee tendinopathy), scored a driving layup on Boston's next possession.

AP

Boston Celtics forward Jayson Tatum (0) signals three after hitting an outside shot during the first half of an NBA basketball game against the Toronto Raptors, Saturday, Nov. 16, 2024, in Boston.

HORNETS 115, BUCKS 114

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)—LaMelo Ball scored 19 of his 26 points in the second half, and Charlotte overcame Giannis Antetokounmpo's first triple-double of the season to beat Milwaukee.

Antetokounmpo had a chance to win the game at the buzzer, but his foul line jumper rimmed out.

Miles Bridges returned from a three-game absence and scored 19 points, while Moussa Diabate added 12 points and 14 rebounds off the bench.

Taurean Price had 23 points for the Bucks, while Antetokounmpo finished with 22 points, 15 rebounds and 12 assists. Bobby Portis had 21 points.

The Hornets led by four before Pat Connaughton made a 3-pointer and then, following Ball's miss, drove the lane and scored to put Milwaukee up by one with 19 seconds left.

LAKERS 104, PELICANS 99

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Anthony Davis had 31 points and 14 rebounds and Los Angeles extended their winning streak to five games with a victory over New Orleans.

LeBron James highlighted a 21-point performance with a pair of pivotal 3-pointers in the final minutes, but his career-long four-game triple-double streak came to an end.

Rookie Dalton Knecht hit five 3s to finish with a career-high 27 points in a spot start for the Lakers.

One night after posting 40 points and 12 rebounds in a victory at San Antonio, Davis reached the 30-point plateau for the eighth time in 12 games played this season.

Brandon Ingram scored 32 points, and reserve Jaylen Nowell scored 16 points for the Pelicans, who've lost 10 of their last 12 games.

MAVERICKS 110, SPURS 93

DALLAS (AP)—Kyrie Irving and Daniel Gafford scored 22 points apiece as Dallas snapped a four-game losing streak with a win over San Antonio, who played without star center Victor Wembanyama.

The 7-foot-3 Wembanyama, last season's unanimous selection as NBA Rookie of the Year, was sidelined with a bruised right knee and is day to day. He got hurt during a home loss to the Los Angeles Lakers on Friday night.

Zach Collins, Wembanyama's replacement in the starting lineup, led the Spurs with a season-high 20 points. Julian Champagnie scored 13, all in the first half.

Gafford set a season high for points as Dallas got a season-best 54 from its bench.

KINGS 121 JAZZ 117

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)—After scoring 60 points in a losing effort the night before, De'Aaron Fox scored 49 points to lead the Sacramento Kings to a 121-117 win over the Utah Jazz on Saturday night.

Fox went 16 of 30 from the field and made 14 of 19 from the free-throw line, and he also added nine assists and two steals. Fox now has the most points over a two-game span in franchise history, surpassing DeMarcus Cousins.

Kevin Huerter had 18 points, and Trey Lyles added 17 points for the Kings.

Sources: NBA considering going to tournament format for All-Star Game

The NBA is considering going to a tournament-style event for the All-Star Game, similar to what has been used in the Rising Stars competition in recent years, two people with knowledge of the plan said Friday.

The people, who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because no changes had been finalized, said the notion has been discussed for several weeks and was further talked about during a competition committee meeting on Friday.

The idea centers around the 24 All-Star selections being split into three teams of eight players, with the fourth team likely to be the winner of the Rising Stars competition that will be held earlier that weekend.

The changes would take effect starting with this season's All-Star weekend in San Francisco, set for Feb. 14-16.

It remains unclear how the voting process would change. Fans, players and media have been part of a weighted system to choose starters, while coaches have selected reserves. Under the proposed format, there would not be any reserves—so it's likely all four voting entities would play a role in selecting the 24-player group.

Also unclear: how choosing coaches would work. Typically, the coaching staffs from the teams leading the Eastern and Western Conferences are invited to coach the All-Star Game—but now, with three or four teams involved, more coaches could be needed.

ESPN first reported the idea of the changes Friday.

Commissioner Adam Silver said earlier this month that the league wants to change the format of the All-Star Game, with hopes that it can become more competitive. The East beat the West 211-186 last season, combining for the most points in the game's 73-year history and marking the first time a team eclipsed 200 points.

"We're looking at other formats," Silver said on Nov. 2, without specifying what may change. "I think there's no doubt that the players were disappointed as well in last year's All-Star Game. We all want to do a better job providing competition and entertainment for our fans."

The league has tinkered with the All-Star formula several times in recent years. Among the attempts were scrapping the longstanding East-vs.-West format for a draft picked by team captains and going to an untimed fourth quarter with a target score to ensure that the game must end on a made shot.

Last year's game went back to the traditional format—four full 12-minute quarters, East vs. West. And it was nothing but an offensive showcase, with the teams combining for 168 3-point attempts.

So, this year, the NBA is on the brink of trying something new—at least for the All-Stars. The rookie-sophomore game was scrapped a few years ago for the Rising Stars tournament, where the top first- and second-year players are split into four teams. Two teams play, then the other two teams play, and the winners meet to decide the Rising Stars champion. It's shorter bursts of basketball, and that may appeal to the All-Star players more than the 48-minute game.

Silver enlisted Golden State star Stephen Curry, among other players, to help figure out a way to make the All-Star Game more competitive this season. Members of the National Basketball Players Association leadership group have been involved in the talks surrounding the current All-Star changes, the people said.

There were elements added to last year's All-Star weekend that worked, such as the Curry vs. Sabrina Ionescu 3-point contest that the league wants to bring back this season—likely with Caitlin Clark and perhaps Klay Thompson involved to make it a 2-on-2 format.

"When you look at the interest in terms of viewership last year, one of the highlights was that Sabrina-Steph shootout," Silver said earlier this month. "So, we do want to do more of that." ***(AP)***

'Inside the NBA' will air on ESPN and ABC as part of settlement between WBD and NBA, AP sources say

"Inside the NBA" will appear on ESPN and ABC beginning next season as part of a settlement between Warner Bros. Discovery and the NBA.

Warner Bros. Discovery, the parent company of TNT Sports, sued the NBA in New York state court after the league did not accept the company's matching offer for one of the packages in its new 11-year media rights deal, which will begin with the 2025-26 season.

The settlement is expected to be announced on Monday, two people with knowledge of the deal told The Associated Press on Saturday night.

The people spoke on condition of anonymity because litigation remains ongoing. The deadline to have the lawsuit dismissed is Tuesday.

The settlement was first reported by the Wall Street Journal.

Even though "Inside the NBA" will be on ESPN and ABC beginning with the 2025-26 season, TNT Sports will continue to produce the popular studio show and it will air from Atlanta, except when the show goes on the road.

The quartet of Ernie Johnson Jr., Charles Barkley, Kenny Smith and Shaquille O'Neal will remain with the show. Barkley signed an extension with WBD in August despite the company losing the NBA.

"Inside the NBA" is expected to air during key moments on the league's calendar — opening night, Christmas Day, the playoffs and the NBA Finals. It is also likely it will be on during Saturday nights the second half of the season when ABC has a prime-time package of games.

The settlement gives TNT Sports, Bleacher Report and House of Highlights a global content license for NBA content with no rights fee for the next 11 years.

Warner Bros. Discovery will also continue to operate the league's digital operations, including NBA.com and NBA TV for five seasons.

Even though TNT Sports will not be airing games in the United States beginning next season, it does have rights to air a full package of games in select countries, including Latin America and Poland.

TNT Sports will also begin showing Big 12 football and men's basketball games next season as part of a sublicense with ESPN.

Turner Sports has had an NBA package since 1984 and games have been on TNT since the network launched in 1988. That will end after this season. ***(AP)***

Barkley runs for 2 TDs, Eagles beat Commanders to stretch NFC East lead

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Jalen Hurts rolled over, face down, and grabbed his helmet.

The Philadelphia Eagles quarterback's head was spiked into the turf by Washington linebacker Frankie Luvu in the second quarter and bounced off the ground. Hurts was evaluated for a concussion—"I guess I beat the protocol," he quipped—and stayed in the game.

Hurts ran for the go-ahead score, Saquon Barkley rushed for 146 yards and two fourth-quarter touchdowns, and the Eagles stretched their lead in the NFC East with a 26-18 win Thursday night over Jayden Daniels and the Commanders.

"Really," coach Nick Sirianni said, "what we talked about at halftime was this was going to be a grimy, gritty game."

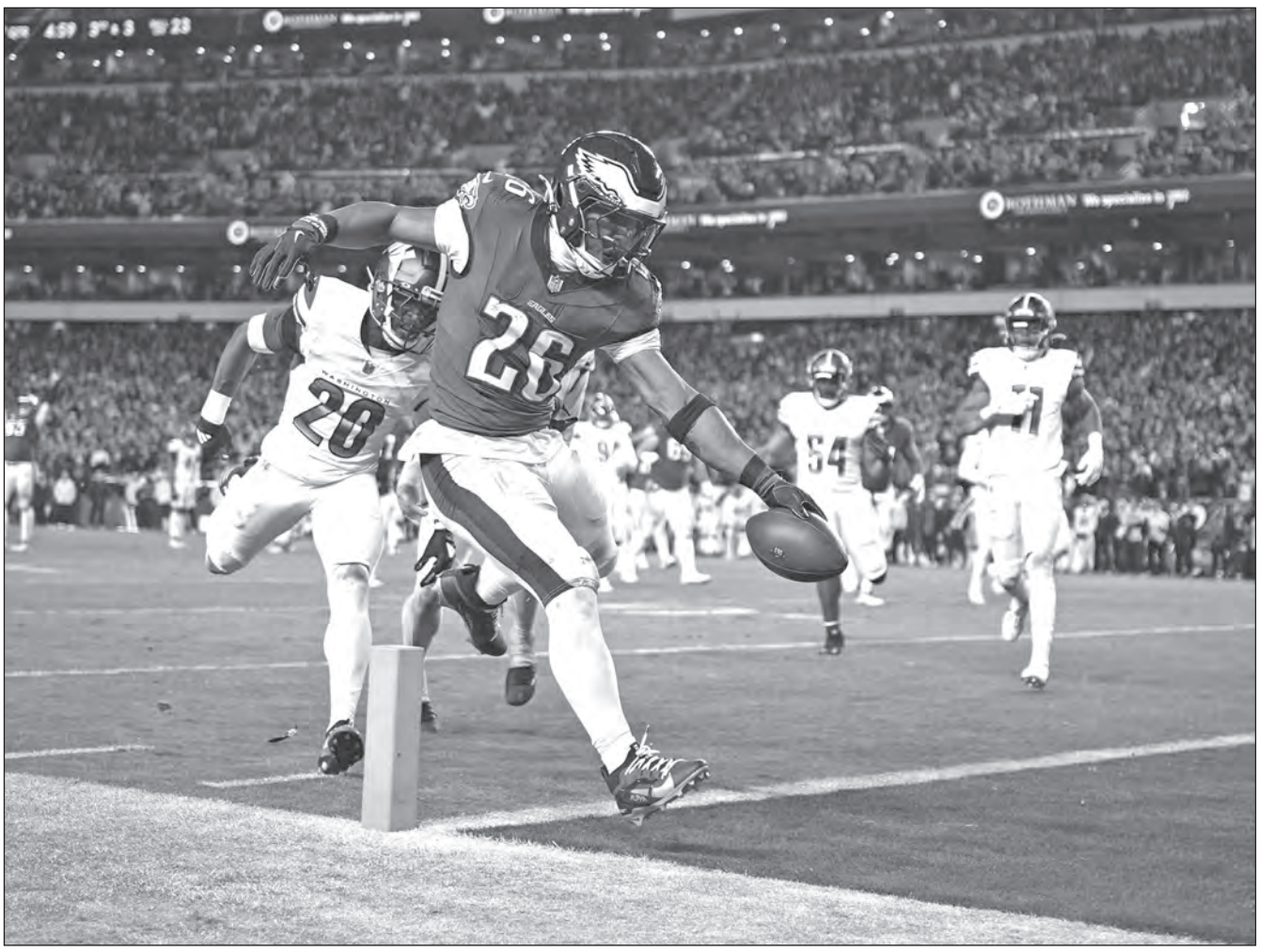
After three quarters of uninspired offense by the Eagles, Barkley and Hurts led them to 20 points in the fourth.

The Eagles (8-2) won their sixth straight since their bye. Fans cheered when Hurts ran out of the tunnel for the second half, and he finished with 221 yards passing.

"When you see grass coming out of his helmet, yeah man, he got rocked a few times," offensive lineman Lane Johnson said. "I thought he did a good job coming in the second half, and really putting it behind him."

After the game, Hurts laughed when he failed to recall details of a specific play.

"I don't know what you're talking about. Probably not the right thing to say right now," he said.



AP

Philadelphia Eagles running back Saquon Barkley (26) scores during the second half of an NFL football game against the Washington Commanders Thursday, Nov. 14, 2024, in Philadelphia.

The Eagles' defense pitched in with a decisive stop.

With the Eagles leading 12-10 in the fourth quarter, Washington was in range for a go-ahead field goal and coach Dan Quinn elected to go for it on fourth down. Daniels scrambled and was stopped for no gain, and less than three minutes later, Barkley scored on a 23-yard run.

"I trust my teammates. I trust the unit," Daniels said of the fourth-down gamble. "I always trust the coaches. I never question them."

Jake Elliott made the extra point to give the Eagles a two-score lead after missing his previous try — along with two of his four field goal attempts.

Daniels, who finished 22 of 32 for 191 yards and a late touchdown pass, was intercepted by safety Reed Blankenship on Washington's next play. A dozen seconds later, Barkley finished off the Commanders (7-4) with a 39-yard touchdown run.

With 1,137 rushing yards through 10 games, Barkley moved ahead of Baltimore's Derrick Henry for the NFL lead. Both veteran running backs were signed as free agents in the offseason.

"You can't be great without the greatness of others," Sirianni said. "Saquon was great tonight but the offensive line was really good."

Washington entered with a chance to take over first place in the division but left with its second straight loss.

Elliott, who missed field goals of 44 and 51 yards, was wide left on the extra point after Hurts' 1-yard tush-push touchdown in the fourth quarter. He made field goals of 21 and 31 yards.

Elliott holds the franchise record with seven field goals of 50 yards or more in a season but has missed all four attempts from 50-plus in 2024.

The matchup was hyped as the biggest game in this NFC East rivalry in nearly 30 years, but the first 30 minutes had all the excitement of a preseason game.

Hurts had an ineffective first half. He underthrew receivers—notably a pair of times to DeVonta Smith—and hung his head when a pass attempt with no nearby open receiver sailed out of bounds.

Washington's Brian Robinson Jr. ripped off an 18-yard run to the 1-yard line and punched in a touchdown on the next play for a 7-0 lead in the first quarter. Zane Gonzalez kicked a 45-yard field goal in the third quarter for a 10-3 lead.

But Gonzalez, promoted off the practice squad with Austin Seibert dealing with a hip injury, didn't get another opportunity late in the fourth. The Commanders were stopped on second- and third-and-1, and Daniels, the No. 2 overall draft pick, was stuffed on Philadelphia's 26.

The Eagles took over and Hurts instantly connected with Dallas Goedert for a 31-yard gain. Goedert fumbled but the ball was scooped up by fellow tight end Grant Calcaterra.

Barkley scored three plays later.

Zach Ertz, who played for the Eagles from 2013-21, had a touchdown catch in the final minute and then got both feet down in the back of the end zone for a 2-point conversion that got the Commanders within eight. Washington tried an onside kick but Philadelphia recovered.

"We'll get there," Quinn said. "But over the last two weeks, we weren't able to demonstrate that and express that to the fullest level."

Why are so many NFL kickers getting hurt? Specialist switches have been trending up this season

EAGAN, Minn. (AP)—The kicker carousel has spun frequently around the NFL this fall.

The riders keep getting hurt.

Traditionally viewed in this tough-guy sport as the quirky specialists who get to steer clear of the danger that lurks on the field, the place-kicking community has experienced an outsized amount of pain this season for a role that primarily hinges on handling the mental challenge of high-pressure performance.

Teams that have made it this far without having to switch kickers ought to feel fortunate.

"Just looking for a live leg, you know?" New York Jets interim coach Jeff Ulbrich said last week after his team's latest shuffle landed on Spencer Shrader, who's now headed for the Kansas City Chiefs with eighth-year veteran Harrison Butker on injured reserve.

Butker is one of seven kickers currently on IR, a who's-who group of sorts at the position that includes Matt Prater and Greg Zuerlein.

This will be Shrader's third team, having also kicked in one game for the Indianapolis Colts. His expected replacement on the Jets, Anders Carlson, has already handled kicking duty in two games for the San Francisco 49ers. There were 45 different players who attempted at least one kick this regular season entering this week, and that figure didn't reflect Shrader's appearance with multiple teams. Essentially, after the weekend is over, the total would be 48.

The Jets will be at four—in four weeks—and join the 49ers and their co-tenant the New York Giants for the most in the league. Both the 49ers and the Giants had to give their punters a turn, thanks to in-game injuries. The Washington Commanders have used three.

According to Sportradar data, there were only 41 kickers used across the league over the entire 2023 season, including one punter appearance and a double shot by Riley Patterson with both the Cleveland Browns and the Detroit Lions. Ten years ago, only 37 players attempted a kick in a regular season game.

So what's the story? Predictably, opinions vary around the NFL.

One issue has been more kickoffs in play following the rule change, as the 49ers experienced with Jake Moody and Matthew Wright going down in consecutive games while trying to make a tackle. The touchback rate, per Sportradar, has dropped from 74.3% in 2023 to 67.2% in 2024.

"I would never be the coach that says, 'Just let them score,' but, dang, that's two weeks in a row," 49ers coach Kyle Shanahan said last month.

There's also, of course, the theory that the collective increase in leg strength across the league has led to more muscle injuries. There have already been nine field goals attempted from 60-plus yards, matching the 2023 total. The number of 50-plus field goal tries, currently at 154, is on pace to smash the 2023 total of 230.

"As a result of that, maybe you're practicing and working more 50-yard field goals during the week, so the taxing of the leg and those soft-tissue injuries kind of build up as we're getting deeper and deeper into the season," said Minnesota Vikings special teams coordinator Matt Daniels, whose rookie kicker Will Reichard went down last week with a quadriceps strain that bubbled up during a recent game.

The Vikings typically kick on Wednesdays and Fridays in practices for a Sunday game.

"You really have to make sure you're monitoring those guys, especially the young ones who feel like they're young whippersnappers and they can kick until their leg falls off," Daniels said. "You definitely have got to be smart with that and hold them accountable for sure."

For those who dismiss the correlation from longer-distance kicking to league-wide injury increase, there's still a clear understanding that during-the-week workloads must be carefully managed.

"Part of it is finding that routine in the first place. I think some guys are young enough where it doesn't matter early on, and after a couple of years if they don't have a routine, then it kind of rears its head and something happens," said Browns kicker Dustin Hopkins, who has fought hamstring injuries for several seasons. "I don't want to say long kicks, because in theory your effort is very similar—at least for me—for a 60-yarder as it is for a 44-yarder."

Parker Romo can attest to the benefit of a reliable routine. The 27-year-old got the call from the Vikings to replace Reichard and made all four of his field goal attempts to beat the Jacksonville Jaguars last week.

"You definitely don't want to kick too much just because you never know when that phone could ring. You've got to be ready, because they call you one day and the next day you're working out for the team," Romo said. "I think it's just important to limit those longer reps. Sure, it's fun to hit 'em and keep going, but you've got to be smart with it."

Sale, Crochet win Comeback Players of Year, Clase, Helsley top relievers, Ohtani best DH

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Left-handers Chris Sale of the Atlanta Braves and Garrett Crochet of the Chicago White Sox were selected Major League Baseball's Comeback Players of the Year on Thursday.

Cleveland right-hander Emmanuel Clase won his second AL Reliever of the Year Award and St. Louis righty Ryan Helsley won the NL honor.

Los Angeles Dodgers star Shohei Ohtani joined David Ortiz as the only players to win four straight Outstanding Designated Hitter Awards. Ohtani and the New York Yankees' Aaron Judge won Hank Aaron Awards as the outstanding offensive performers in their leagues.

Major League Baseball made the announcements at its All-MLB Awards Show.

AP

Atlanta Braves starting pitcher Chris Sale throws to the Minnesota Twins in the third inning of a baseball game Aug. 28, 2024, in Minneapolis.

Sale, 35, was 18-3 with a 2.38 ERA and 225 strikeouts in 177 2/3 innings for the NL's first pitching triple crown since the Los Angeles Dodgers' Clayton Kershaw in 2011. He earned his eighth All-Star selection and first since 2018.

Sale helped Boston to the 2018 World Series title but made just 56 starts from 2020-23, going 17-18 with a 4.86 ERA, 400 strikeouts and 79 walks over 298 1/3 innings. He was acquired by Boston from the Chicago White Sox in December 2016 and made nine trips to the disabled and injured lists with the Red Sox, mostly due to shoulder and elbow ailments. He had Tommy John surgery on March 30, 2020, and returned to a big league mound on Aug. 14, 2021.

Sale fractured a rib while pitching in batting practice in February 2022 during the management lockout. In his second start back he broke his left pinkie finger on July 17 when he was hit by a line drive off the bat of the New York Yankees' Aaron Hicks. Sale broke his right wrist while riding a bicycle en route to lunch on Aug. 6, ending his season.

Crochet, 25, was 6-12 with a 3.58 ERA over 32 starts for a White Sox team that set a post-1900 record of 121 losses, becoming a first-time All-Star. He struck out 209 and walked 33 in 146 innings.

He had Tommy John surgery on April 5, 2022, and returned to the major leagues on May 18, 2023. Crochet had a 3.55 ERA in 13 relief appearances in 2023, and then joined the rotation this year.

Sale and Crochet were chosen in voting by MLB.com beat writers.

Clase and Helsley were unanimous picks by a panel that included Hall of Famers Trevor Hoffman, Mariano Rivera, Dennis Eckersley and Rollie Fingers, along with John Franco and Billy Wagner. The AL award is named after Rivera and the NL honor after Hoffman.

A three-time All-Star, Clase was 4-2 with a 0.61 ERA, 66 strikeouts and 10 walks in 74 1/3 innings, holding batters to a .154 average. The 26-year-old converted 47 of 50 save chances, including his last 47.

Voting was based on the regular season. Clase was 0-2 with a 9.00 ERA in the playoffs, allowing three home runs, one more than his regular-season total.

KAITHLYN

From page 16

On why she committed to the Lakers, the high school class of 2025 graduate said, "I was actually offered opportunities from various places, including D1, D2, and NAIA schools. However, for me, Grand Valley was the better option. I had a meeting with all the coaches, and they gave me a virtual tour. The campus was beautiful, featuring an indoor field and newly renovated lockers. I also had a meeting with the players, where I was able to ask questions about the school. This experience made me realize that GVSU would be the right fit for me."

With the opportunity, she said, "I feel blessed because not everyone is able to have this opportunity. I know the competition will be tougher out there, so I will need to work extra hard and dedicate a lot of time to the gym and self-training."

She then said, "I am truly grateful because, ever since I was young, one of my goals was to sign and commit to a school. I'm forever thankful for my friends, teammates, coaches, and family. A big thank you to everyone who supported me throughout my journey and always believed in me. This achievement is for all of you, and I promise to make you all proud."

Her parents are Jov and Magie Chavez. Her siblings are Mark and Julie—both of whom are national team soccer players as well.

Her soccer coach through the years, Mae Ito, said in her remarks, "I think it's very obvious that she has a very pleasing and honorable work ethic throughout. She is very studious and diligent on and off the pitch. Obviously, she's a multi-sport athlete, but I think her heart really works well with team sports." She added, "I'm very happy and proud to see not only the football community, but the whole community behind Kaithlyn and her step toward her dreams and her goals. All the best of luck and for sure, a lot of successes, and if there are any failures, we're here to push you."

As for Snyder, he said, "I'm very excited that she's had five different scholarship offers this year—four for soccer and one for cross-country. So, she's an amazing athlete overall. She's been our cornerstone athlete for volleyball, basketball, soccer, cross country, and track. She's represented the CNMI in cross-country, soccer, track, and basketball… She's represented the CNMI in multiple sports, so we're very proud to have her. She's also a very active photographer as our class historian, and is a great student. We're going to miss her but we're very excited for her and the opportunity that she's going to have next year in Michigan, embracing the cold."

After the ceremony, Chavez was gifted a puppy, whom she named Rio. There was also a celebratory cake, with icing in the shape of a soccer ball.

She has been playing soccer since she was 4 years old and has earned numerous achievements and accolades with the national team, her football club Kanoa, and her school team.

She competed in Palestine for the AFC U20 Qualifiers and Thailand for the AFC U17 Qualifiers, where she was able to score in both competitions. Just this summer, she was awarded the most valuable player and Golden Boot for her exceptional performance during the NMIFA Women's U21 Three Nations Cup.

MCS

From page 16

Abuan, and Heaven Deleon Guerrero worked, pulsed, and moved as one as they took the first set, 21-16.

GCA's roster of Anne Arriola, Charlotte Figueroa, Hanbyul Jang, Mikheala Kim, Sarang Lee, Breanna Lopez, Celine Mondido, Adele Raho, Stacey Ramos, Ameree San Nicolas, Chloe Shin, and Keala Takeda tried to keep pace with the Lady Knights, but was overpowered by their well-placed returns and less errors in their gameplay.

Lopez, GCA's captain, attempted to carry her team on her back as she dove, jumped, spiked, and served her way to landing points for her team, but her team's chemistry was not there yet—even in the second set.

Despite keeping pace with the Lady Knights at the beginning of the second set though, 1-1, 5-5, 6-6, MCS pulled away with the help of their team moving as one unit, and clinched the second set, 21-9.

Last Tuesday, in the opening day of games, MCS won their first game of the season after they beat Chacha Ocean View Middle School, 21-18, 21-13.

In other results last Tuesday, Dandan Middle School Tottots soared high against Saipan International School Lady Geckos, 21-4, 21-18; Francisco M. Sablan Middle School II beat SIS II in three tough sets, 21-17, 16-21, 15-12; and Tanapag Middle School Tatagas made light work of MCS II, 21-7, 21-6.

Games are played every Tuesday and Thursday, with the championship series set for Jan. 16-18, 2025.

LADY

From page 16

scrambled to get more points on the scoreboard. They had missed opportunities but finally converted a field goal made by Keylie Claveria with six minutes left. Then, Hoo Wang scored their last 2 points before they waved the white flag, 8-39.

Fatialofa led the Lady Rays with 16 points, while Yamada and Gross put up 5 markers each.

In other results that day, Kagman High School Lady Ayuyus trounced SSHS JV, 31-12; and Mount Carmel School Lady Knights discarded of Marianas High School Lady Dolphins, 31-3.

The opening day was actually scheduled for last Wednesday, but due to the tropical storm warning, it was rescheduled for Wednesday, Nov. 27.

Games are played on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, with the championship series set for Dec. 11-13.

SSHS 39 – Azzy Fatialofa, Gross 5, Yamada 5, Aiyana Fatialofa 4, Ramon 3, Collage 2, Saralu 2.

SIS 8 – E. Claveria 4, K. Claveria 2, Wang 2.

Scoring by halves: 22-2, 39-8.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES
NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	11	3	.786	–
New York	6	6	.500	4
Brooklyn	5	8	.385	5½
Philadelphia	2	10	.167	8
Toronto	2	12	.143	9
Southeast Division				
Orlando	8	6	.571	–
Atlanta	6	7	.462	1½
Miami	5	6	.455	1½
Charlotte	5	7	.417	2
Washington	2	9	.182	4½
Central Division				
Cleveland	14	0	1.000	–
Detroit	6	8	.429	8
Indiana	5	7	.417	8
Chicago	5	8	.385	8½
Milwaukee	4	9	.308	9½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	9	4	.692	–
Memphis	7	6	.538	2
Dallas	6	7	.462	3
San Antonio	6	8	.429	3½
New Orleans	4	10	.286	5½
Northwest Division				
Oklahoma City	11	2	.846	–
Denver	7	4	.636	3
Minnesota	7	6	.538	4
Portland	5	8	.385	6
Utah	3	9	.250	7½
Pacific Division				
Golden State	10	2	.833	–
L.A. Lakers	9	4	.692	1½
Phoenix	9	4	.692	1½
Sacramento	8	6	.571	3
L.A. Clippers	6	7	.462	4½

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES
NFL STANDINGS

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Buffalo	8	2	0	.800	290	193
Miami	3	6	0	.333	147	202
N.Y. Jets	3	7	0	.300	177	214
New England	3	7	0	.300	160	220
South						
Houston	6	4	0	.600	224	226
Indianapolis	4	6	0	.400	208	223
Tennessee	2	7	0	.222	157	240
Jacksonville	2	8	0	.200	202	264
North						
Pittsburgh	7	2	0	.778	215	146
Baltimore	7	3	0	.700	318	253
Cincinnati	4	6	0	.400	270	262
Cleveland	2	7	0	.222	148	213
West						
Kansas City	9	0	0	1.000	219	161
L.A. Chargers	6	3	0	.667	186	118
Denver	5	5	0	.500	197	177
Las Vegas	2	7	0	.222	168	251

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Philadelphia	8	2	0	.800	259	179
Washington	7	4	0	.636	308	243
Dallas	3	6	0	.333	177	259
N.Y. Giants	2	8	0	.200	156	222
South						
Atlanta	6	4	0	.600	238	236
Tampa Bay	4	6	0	.400	279	266
Carolina	3	7	0	.300	167	310
New Orleans	3	7	0	.300	227	246
North						
Detroit	8	1	0	.889	284	171
Minnesota	7	2	0	.778	221	157
Green Bay	6	3	0	.667	230	194
Chicago	4	5	0	.444	175	167
West						
Arizona	6	4	0	.600	238	220
San Francisco	5	4	0	.556	233	202
L.A. Rams	4	5	0	.444	185	217
Seattle	4	5	0	.444	210	221

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tatum's 3-pointer at buzzer in OT gives Celtics victory over Raptors

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Sale, Crochet win Comeback Players of Year, Clase, Helsley top relievers, Ohtani best DH

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Kaithlyn commits to Grand Valley State

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

From the tropics to the cold, NMI Women's National Soccer Team player and multi-sport athlete Andrei Kaithlyn Chavez is heading to Grand Valley State University next year to play college soccer on a full-ride scholarship.

The Allendale, Michigan school is a National Collegiate Athletic Association Division II school. Their women's soccer team won the NCAA Division II national championship in 2021.

Last Friday, a signing ceremony was held at her high school, Saipan International School, where she is currently a senior. It was attended by her family, coaches, teachers, and close friends and teammates. According to SIS headmaster Dr. Ron Snyder, Chavez is the first Gecko to receive a sports-related scholarship opportunity.

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LEIGH GASES

Saipan International School senior Andrei Kaithlyn Chavez, flanked by her parents Magie and Jov, signs her commitment to Michigan's Grand Valley State University during her signing ceremony at SIS last Friday.

LEIGH GASES

Saipan International School senior Andrei Kaithlyn Chavez, center, poses with her family, mom Magie, second right, dad Jov, second left, brother Mark, far left, and sister Julie, far right, during her signing ceremony to Michigan's Grand Valley State University at SIS last Friday.

MCS wins 2 in a row in girls MS v-ball

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

Mount Carmel School Lady Knights are off to a hot start as they have won two in a row in the NMIVA-PSS Interscholastic Girls Middle School Volleyball League 2024-2025.

In their most recent conquest last Thursday, they vanquished defending champions Grace Christian Academy Lady Eagles in two swift sets at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

The Lady Knights' rotation of Mia Guerrero, Miana Dela Cruz, Adelle Kautz, Caydince Masga, O-ren Sasamoto, Neia Tagabuel, Paige Muna, Aliyani Basa, Eunyu Zoey Kwak, Sofia Dimafelix, Trisha

See MCS on Page 15

LEIGH GASES

Defending champions Grace Christian Academy's Breanna Lopez stretches for a dig during their game against Mount Carmel School in the NMIVA-PSS Interscholastic Girls Middle School Volleyball League 2024-2025 at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

LEIGH GASES

Mount Carmel School's Mia Guerrero goes for a bump during their game in the NMIVA-PSS Interscholastic Girls Middle School Volleyball League 2024-2025 at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

Lady Rays drench Lady Geckos in HS hoops start

LEIGH GASES

Saipan Southern High School varsity player Teneasha Diaz attempts a layup as she's defended by a Saipan International School player during their game in the opening day of the 2024-2025 IT&E Interscholastic Girls High School Basketball League last Friday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

Defending champions Saipan Southern High School Lady Manta Rays drenched Saipan International School Lady Geckos, 39-8, in their opening game of the 2024-2025 IT&E Interscholastic Girls High School Basketball League last Friday night at the Gilbert C. Ada G2ymnasium.

Lady Geckos pitter pattered their way through the court, while the Lady Rays tore through with vigor from a fire ignited by recent transfer, NMI National Women's Basketball Team player Azriel Fatialofa.

She made her presence known from the jump-ball with an immediate basket, followed by 2 more for an early 6 points. She went on to score 6 more points in the first half for a total of 12 markers. Meanwhile, SIS managed to put up just 2 points from Euanne Claveria for a 22-2 first half.

The Lady Rays continued their rampage on the court as their defense crumbled the Lady Geckos and rooted them to just 2 points way into the second half. Fatialofa contributed 4 more points before their bench were put up to play.

Shaenna Yamada and Phoenix Gross then controlled the ball as they scored 4 points each, while the Lady Geckos desperately

See LADY on Page 15

LEIGH GASES

Saipan Southern High School varsity player Phoenix Gross leaps under the basket as she's defended by a Saipan International School player during their game in the opening day of the 2024-2025 IT&E Interscholastic Girls High School Basketball League last Friday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.